



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Interparliamentary Delegation Tours Azeri Border Areas

LD2009192993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355
GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Baku September 20 TASS—There are now 700,000 refugees in Azerbaijan without housing or jobs, Irshat Aliyev, chairman of the republican committee on refugees and forced settlers at the Azeri Government, told ITAR-TASS here on Monday [20 September].

The republican government gives them aid, appropriating 20 billion rubles for this purpose this year. Every refugee receives 5,000 rubles monthly (eds: less than five dollars). Azerbaijan hopes for aid from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

A delegation of CIS interparliamentary assembly, now on a tour of Azerbaijan, visited refugee tent camps in border areas on Monday. The delegation intends to draft an aid programme for victims of ethnic conflicts.

The Azeri and Armenian leaders reached an understanding, also today, on a meeting between the interparliamentary delegation and Nagorno-Karabakh leaders. The meeting is planned to take place in Agdam this afternoon.

Delegation Assesses Conflict

LD2009221593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1928
GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Stepanakert September 20 TASS—We liked a reasonable approach of Karabakh parliamentarians towards the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, head of a delegation of the Interparliamentarian Association of CIS Countries, chairman of the Kyrgyz Supreme Soviet Medetkan Sherimkulov said summing up the results of the meeting in Stepanakert.

It is early to speak about the place, time and the form of the negotiations, it is necessary to overcome hostility, Sherimkulov noted.

The delegation of the Interparliamentary Association stayed in Stepanakert. It failed to overcome confrontation because of fightings begun in the evening.

Views 'Peace-Making Mission'

LD2109084593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812
GMT 21 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Ostanin and Vadim Brykin]

[Text] Stepanakert-Moscow September 21—On the suggestion of Armenia, the November session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states will discuss the issue on the impermissibility of blockades in conditions of inter-ethnic conflicts. Medetkan Sherimkulov, chairman of the Kyrgyz parliament, told ITAR-TASS

today. He is heading a delegation of members of parliament from the CIS member states, who are here on a peace-making mission.

"Our interests differ a little from those of the CSCE Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh," he said. "Our purpose is to establish peace in the region or, on the initial stage, to prolong the state of peace at least for one day. We have very much in common because of decades of being integrated in the Soviet Union, and we will not be able to give it up."

According to Sherimkulov, "the CIS member states are more interested than anybody else in Nagorno-Karabakh no longer being the land of death and suffering."

The visit to Stepanakert and talks with Nagorno-Karabakh leaders are the final stage of the peace-making mission of the CIS legislators.

The delegation of the Interparliamentary Assembly left for Baku today, ITAR-TASS learned from sources in Stepanakert. On Monday it had to remain in the city because of local shooting along the confrontation line in the Agdam region.

Motives for Baltic 'Common Market' Assessed

PM2009143593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "The Baltic Region Creates Its Own 'Common Market'"—last two paragraphs are Leonid Levitskiy report]

[Text] An agreement setting up a Baltic free trade zone has been signed in Tallinn. The prime ministers of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia signed the corresponding documents.

The Baltic region is abolishing internal customs restrictions and tariffs on all commodities produced on the zone's territory, with the exception of agricultural output, lumber, and scrap metal. Special protocols introduce freedom of movement for citizens of the three states and a single entry visa for foreigners.

The creation of the Baltic zone is in line with the existing tendency in the world. The process of dividing the global trade and economic area up into regional zones with special rights for their members is increasingly resembling an epidemic. Over the past two or three years alone corresponding agreements have formed a "super market"—the North American Economic Cooperation Zone—and markets of a more modest size have emerged: Black Sea, South American, and others.

The economic parameters of the new "mini market" are not yet sufficiently distinct—the Baltic states are going through the complex stage of introducing new economic management principles and their own currencies. The three states' aggregate share of world trade amounts to hundredths of a percent. Trade among the three partners in the zone is on the verge of extinction and barely reaches 5 percent of the foreign trade volumes of any of them, but

great hopes are pinned on the zone which has been created—it is meant to stimulate the growth of business activity.

It is possible to look at the formation of such zones from at least two viewpoints. The apocalyptic view: States do not believe in the possibility of the successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of talks on the new world trade order and are gripped by fear of the future redistribution of the "trade pie," and in this case it would not be a bad thing to have some sort of oasis of stability behind them—which explains the phenomenon of haste in forming all sorts of zones—but optimists are inclined to see an evolution in the process which is gathering pace—from the simple to the complex, from the small to the grand.

Which of the scenarios dominated the minds of the Baltic politicians? Obviously, both. In the event of a global trade catastrophe, which cannot be avoided if the Uruguay talks fail, of course such a low-power market will not withstand the onslaught of unruly market forces, but at the same time it has a chance of more quickly entering a safe "harbor"—the EC. "This agreement makes us stronger economically and creates a more perfect base for the development of foreign trade," Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar declared at the signing ceremony. "This document demonstrates our desire to become full members of the EC."

The Baltic States seem to be afraid of remaining an isolated island in the sea of free commerce which promises to spread throughout Europe in the very near future if Norway, Sweden, and Finland reach agreement with Brussels on the terms of their "Common Market" membership and if East Europe successfully gets through the probationary period as associate members, which is expected to expire in 2001. Finally, corresponding talks are also being conducted with Russia, albeit with difficulty, but they are proceeding.

Does all this mean that the three republics are turning their back on Russia? Obviously not: All of us who "emerged from the USSR" will feel—voluntarily or not—a mutual dependence for a long time to come, but everything changes, and the possibility cannot be ruled out that the process of joining Europe will not be too difficult for the Baltic region. So in the next century, which is not all that far off, this important "mini market" for Russia might already have been taken over by others.

Tallinn—The free trade treaty is also supplemented by agreements on military cooperation. In the declaration on regional security the heads of government emphasized the need for the speediest withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia, the complete elimination of military bases, and a reduction in the number of troops in Kaliningrad Oblast.

The heads of government signed an agreement defining a single defense policy. The republics intend to coordinate their actions in the purchase of weapons. NATO standards are to serve as the guideline.

Pro-Union Groups Confer Ahead of 'Congress of USSR Peoples'

PM2009093593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
16 Sep 93 p 2

[Nikolay Kozhanov report under the rubric "Toward the Congress of USSR Peoples": "A Time To Gather Stones Together: Roundtable at the Parliamentary Center"]

[Text] What led to the destruction of the Union state and how realistic are the prospects for its restoration?

What can and must be done if the union of fraternal peoples is to be reborn in a new quality and in new forms which correspond to the times?

These difficult questions were discussed by the participants in the roundtable convened at the Parliamentary Center by the "Fatherland" Russian Supreme Soviet deputies' faction on the eve of the Congress of USSR Peoples opening 20 September. Representatives of various patriotically oriented parties and associations, scientists, and people's deputies of the Russian Federation and the USSR exchanged opinions on this score. Despite the wide range of conclusions and assessments inevitable in such discussions, the main points of accord clearly emerged. For example, the participants in the roundtable were unanimous that during the years of its existence the USSR had by no means exhausted its potential for development and that one should speak not of disintegration but of conscious and deliberate destruction of the union state engineered by radical democrats and separatist forces which swept to power on a wave of populism in the center and at local level, forces which crudely flouted the will of the country's peoples as expressed in the referendum of March 1991.

The power-seeking actions of ambitious politicians were effectively accomplished with the support of a section of the nationalist intelligentsia and local mafia circles, and with the passivity of the masses dazed and confused by political demagoguery in the atmosphere of crisis surrounding the former power structures. In the opinion of the speakers, there has also been overt and covert pressure from external forces that have no interest whatever in the existence in the world arena of a powerful and flourishing socialist superpower.

Life, however, is increasingly harshly demonstrating that the hasty decision adopted by the three "leaders" in the Belovezhskaya Forest is absurd and disastrous for the country as a whole and for each people individually. For that reason, the participants in the roundtable concluded: the time has now come to gather stones together, as the Bible says. Furthermore, as Professor R. Kosolapov rightly noted, the union of fraternal peoples is alive and remains an objective factor, despite all the politicians have done because it has its roots in our common history and culture and indeed simply in the blood and genetic stock and in people's consciousness of the common international "great power" mentality ["velikoderzhavnost"].

This is why centripetal tendencies are gaining momentum. This was clearly shown at the recent Congress of Belarus

Peoples and in the decision to prepare and hold a joint session of the Belarus and Russian Supreme Soviets, which S. Baburin, who has returned from Minsk, talked about. Doctor of Philosophical Sciences M. Dzhunusov, sociologist Zh. Toshchenko, Union People's Deputy V. Alksnis, Russian Deputies G. Benov, I. Shashviashvili, V. Tarasov, I. Bratishchev, and others who spoke presented concrete recommendations for the forthcoming Congress of USSR Peoples which were discussed and adopted by participants in the roundtable. Essentially the recommendations are to seek legitimate ways of restoring and strengthening the friendship and mutual assistance among the peoples and states, broad "popular diplomacy," and the transfer of the emergent process of integration from the sphere of international law to that of state law. The sole, main aim is to regenerate a new Union of fraternal peoples on a voluntary basis.

Congress Opens in Moscow 20 Sep

LD2009100593 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0815 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Sep—The Congress of People's of the USSR, which, in the words of its organizers, "has to begin the process of restoring the great power—the Soviet Union," opened in Moscow today.

The founders of the Congress are the Council of the International Community of Writers' Organisations, the Political Executive Committee of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU, the so-called Permanent Presidium of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, the International Congress of Unions of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the peasants' and agrarian unions, the Officers' Union, and the *PRAVDA* and *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA* newspapers. The congress presidium also includes former USSR people's deputy Sazhi Umalatova, cosmonaut Vitaliy Sevast'yanov, Oleg Shenin, chairman of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU, Officers' Union Chairman Stanislav Terekhov, Yuriy Voronin, first Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and others.

In the words of the congress organizers, "it will be above party-level, and aims to unify and have humanist objectives." "We will make every effort to unite forces, at present disunited, that are in favor of strengthening friendship and mutual understanding between the ethnic groups and nationalities of the USSR, and striving to halt civil strife and bloodshed, and to recreate the union of peoples on the principles of free will, equality, independence and the development and strengthening of democracy," Oleg Shenin said at the congress.

The congress organizing committee told the *ITAR-TASS* correspondent that "a manifesto to the Soviet people and the rules of a broad public movement for the recreation of a single state on the basis of the will of the people, expressed at the referendum of 17 March 1991 will be adopted during the work of the congress."

Participants Demand Restoring USSR

LD2009204393 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1323 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Delegates at the "Congress of Soviet Nations" which opened in Moscow Monday [20 September] believe the immediate restoration of the Soviet Union to be their main task. Taking part are some 2,000 people from the former Soviet republics.

The demand is contained in the speeches by the former secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Oleg Shenin, the chairwoman of the standing presidium of the Congress of the Soviet People's Deputies Sazhi Umalatova, chairman of the Officers' Union Stanislav Terekhov and the First Deputy Chairman of Russian Parliament Yuriy Voronin, who read out the message of greetings to the Congress delegates on behalf of the speaker of Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The demand has been included in the draft manifesto which was planned to be adopted at the end of the congress.

Shenin also said that the "congress has the right to warn the United Nations and all other countries around the world that any acts aimed against the Soviet Union's integrity are unconstitutional. He proposed to institute the title of laureate of the prize "for the outstanding contribution to restoring the USSR".

Terekhov informed those present of the results of the All-Union Congress of the Officers' Union which took place in Minsk Sunday and said that now "conditions are ripe for the counteroffensive by patriotic forces" and it would be launched in "Belarus where the Union collapsed". Terekhov also said that according to the information he had "commando units and airborne troops are being brought up to Moscow." If this is being done to impose a state of emergency or dissolve Russian parliament, said Terekhov, "patriotic-minded officers will defend their people and MPs."

Among the speakers before the break were representatives of almost all former Union republics. All of them said they expressed the "view of the entire people" and demanded that the Soviet Union be restored.

Congress Wants 'Renewed Soviet Union'

LD2009155793 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1351 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—The Congress of Soviet Peoples will be a permanently operating organisation till "a renewed Soviet Union" is restored, sponsors of this event told a news conference here on Monday [20 September].

Author Timur Pulatov, chairing the congress, said that "the country's restoration will be long but not violent. Not a single party will reign in a renewed union: There will be genuine democracy and people's councils."

According to Pulatov, "there will be no repression in a renewed Soviet Union, while the Congress of Soviet Peoples will be something resembling the present parliament."

According to the organising committee, the congress was attended by some 1,800 people from all the former Soviet republics.

Congress Adopts Manifesto

LD2009220693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Participants of the Congress of the Peoples of the USSR, which ended in Moscow tonight, adopted a manifesto demanding that the parliaments and governments of the new states recognize the agreements to create the CIS signed in 1991 as anti-constitutional and anti-popular and immediately denounce them.

The document backs the proposal by Russian and Belarusian deputies to restore a single state system and with this aim in view to hold a joint session of the Russian and Belarusian parliaments. The congress described the actual dissolution of the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR as unlawful considering it necessary to resume regular activities of the legislative bodies.

The congress approved the draft charter of the Popular Movement for Restoration of the USSR and elected its executive body - Committee of the Peoples of the USSR composed of 55 representatives of former republics and ethnic and territorial formations. The congress also adopted the resolutions "For the Protection of the Rights of Political Prisoners - Supporters of the Restoration of the USSR" and "On Stopping the Fratricidal Wars on the Territory of the USSR." As well as the "Appeal to the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR on the Abolition of the Institution of Presidency."

Trade Union Leaders Appeal for Economic Union

LD1909165293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1120 GMT on 19 September carries the "Live Dialogue" program. This week the program carried a discussion about trade unions hosted by Andrey Skryabin.

Skryabin noted in his introduction that this week's program was the first to be jointly produced by the Mir interstate TV and radio company's national branch in Belarus and the Ostankino TV and radio company's Rezonans studio.

Continuing, he said that in the run-up to the Second General Congress of Trade Unions opening on 22 September, the following guests had been invited to the program: Vladimir Shcherbakov, chairman of the General Confederation of Trade Unions; Siyazbek Mukashev, chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan and member of the General Congress of Trade Unions Executive Committee; and Vladimir Goncharik, chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus,

who was speaking from a studio in Belarus, together with Belarusian TV journalist Lyudmila Sidorovich.

Shcherbakov began by saying the congress would try to work out a stance on behalf of working people, which would be presented to the meeting of CIS heads of state taking place on 24 September. Among these positions will be a demand for the creation of an economic union in the immediate future.

Sidorovich said there was a continuing offensive against trade unions in Belarus, with union leaders labelled as opposition figures. Goncharik added that there was strong support in Belarus for real economic union, as well as demands for better living and working conditions.

Asked about his organization's activities, Shcherbakov said that the General Confederation of Trade Unions has paid special attention to the many social problems in the defense industry; to the special problems faced by border oblasts, which have suffered from the disintegration of the old economic union; and to the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. In all of these cases there is support for the restoration of economic union, he said.

Mukashev said it was hoped by trade unions in Kazakhstan that the economic union would be more than just a piece of paper. He categorically disagreed with the view that the union was based on Russia's concealed imperial aspirations, and pointed out President Nazarbayev's role in devising it.

All three participants defended the important role being played by trade unions in the current difficult political and economic climate. Goncharik and Mukashev emphasized the importance of social issues on their respective agendas.

Shcherbakov reaffirmed his commitment to the economic union, saying it was in the interests of all states, and adding in response to a question from a Ukraine listener opposed to union with Russia that out of all the commonwealth states, Ukraine stood to lose the most from the breakdown of economic links.

Ending the program, Skryabin introduced Vladimir Shcherbakov, who read the following appeal, addressed to Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, Islam Karimov, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Stanislav Shushkevich, Mircea Snegur, Imamali Rakhmonov, Saparmurad Niyazov, Geydar Aliyev, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Eduard Shevardnadze, and Askar Akayev:

"On behalf of the General Confederation of Trade Unions, functioning on the territory of 10 countries and uniting more than 95 million workers, I appeal to you to do everything possible and impossible to make the result of the Moscow meeting on 24 September the creation of an economic union. The people's cup of patience has been overfilled. Life is becoming more and more difficult. Time has run out. If you do not succeed now in stopping the disintegration of the economy and restoring economic links, economic collapse will begin, bringing with it mass unemployment, acute shortages of energy, food, and medicines, and deep instability in all spheres of society. This is not what you promised people at elections. This is not

what our people expect of you. We have an exceptional chance on 24 September, perhaps the last chance, to stop our countries and peoples from tumbling into the abyss of economic catastrophe. I appeal to you, esteemed heads of state, to meet this historic responsibility."

CIS Secretary Zalamay on Tripartite Union

WS1709120093 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian
7 Sep 93 pp 1,2

[Interview with Uladzimir Zalamay, Belarusian deputy prime minister and state secretary for CIS affairs, by Uladzimir Khilkevich; place and date not given: "Close Economic Union With Russia Is Caused by Ordinary Everyday Considerations"]

[Text] [Khilkevich] In the spring, Prime Minister Kebich put forward the idea of economic integration with Russia. After the joint August declaration of the prime ministers of three Slav republics, the text of the agreement was drafted. What, in your opinion, is the essence of that document?

[Zalamay] The agreement envisions the restoration of the single economic zone that developed in the course of history, including recent decades. The primary principles of such a space are the free flow of products, services, investment, workers, and ordinary citizens; and concrete commitments with regard to the property of individuals and companies. Property owners receive guarantees and rights to use their property on the territory of all three states.

A single customs zone will be formed to secure these processes. All the barriers hampering the free flow of products, services, and investment will be removed. Civilized regulations determining relations among enterprises will be drafted. In particular, the issue of mutual payments will be resolved. Taxation, banking, and budget policies will also be coordinated.

The sides take on commitments to coordinate the principal directions and progress of economic reform, structural reshaping, and conversion of defense industries. While approaching that level of relations, we had to think over forming joint managerial bodies. There have been suggestions to establish an intergovernmental committee for cooperation, as well as an economic court.

[Khilkevich] Let me ask you a concrete question. Please try to view it not from the viewpoint of an expert but of the man on the street. How will the situation improve after signing the agreement? Oil prices will stabilize; nobody will ever cut gas supplies; we will not have to pay customs fees for shipping products. What more improvement can we expect?

[Zalamay] Different export tariffs and customs fees in transactions among our states will no longer influence prices, and our products will become more competitive, at least on CIS markets. Prices for power resources will be regulated within the framework of our economic zone. This is very relevant. We will be able to influence the process of setting prices. Establishing joint enterprises, and implementing joint projects, including the construction of

oil and gas pipelines, and stock sharing will intertwine the technological processes more tightly and provide for full use of our industrial capacity and the curbing of unemployment. The common monetary unit would permit the purchase of raw materials for the same currency enterprises would receive from selling their products. Manufacturers will be given a free hand.

[Khilkevich] Will the integration be as close as it was in the former USSR or in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance? Will it be more like the Common Market?

[Zalamay] The model being created now resembles the EC.

[Khilkevich] How quickly can the process of the alienation of economies be halted? We know that this process is under way. There has been enough evidence, including a wagonload of "fake" money and statements by several Russian politicians that they are not going to fuss with us.

[Zalamay] The agreement will halt the process of alienation. Unfortunately, we are not always persistent in our actions. This is bound to influence our mutual relations and the Russian side's attitude toward further cooperation. The current negotiations give us hope that the situation will not deteriorate. Economic trust will be restored.

However, I want to point out that even now, while acting in the working group for drafting the documents, we enjoy full trust on the part of the Russian side. At the sessions, we share the same benches, sitting side by side. We have mutual understanding even today. We are trying to be sincere with one another.

Russia has a good deal of its own problems. Russia understands that a lot of countries would like to use it in the capacity of a donor. However, people in Russia also know how to count and one day they might say: "Hey guys, you owe us 110 billion. It's time you paid back." The actions of the Russian finance minister were prompted by the situation in Russia's monetary system and not by personal ambitions.

[Khilkevich] I criticized him for premeditatedly ruining the ruble zone.

[Zalamay] They have arrived at a necessity to separate themselves from the territories that were not always persistent while using the ruble. There were a lot of examples when republics conducted their monetary policy according to their own laws without coordinating their actions with Russia.

In the summer 1992, at Russia's initiative, correspondent accounts were established for mutual payments. Later, they acquired the status of interstate loans and receiving such loans became more difficult. This, indeed, can be assessed either as ruining the ruble zone or else, as measures aimed at creating Russia's own monetary unit—a strong ruble.

I admit that Russia could have displayed more sincerity in its relations with a partner. They knew that we were using the ruble. Today, the Russian side has taken a principled stance with regard to using its monetary unit: If one wants to use it, he has to buy it.

[Khilkevich] What are the provisions of the agreement regarding this issue?

[Zalamay] We will have to determine precisely what monetary unit we will choose. Our experts are leaning toward the ruble.

[Khilkevich] Does it mean that Belarusian National Bank payment notes will be withdrawn from circulation?

[Zalamay] Yes. There should be one currency. I will give you a simple example. Clearing transactions are made in hard currency. We have received oil, gas, and other goods valued at \$2 billion and should deliver meat, tractors, cars, refrigerators, and chemicals of equal value, but in the internal CIS market, prices for the first group of products are lower than on the world market. As a result of this difference, we lose production and receive less oil and gas. One currency is necessary to omit world prices.

The Machine Car Plant factory does not receive money for cars it delivers to Russia on a clearing basis from Russian consumers. It is paid by the Belarusian Government in payment notes and it is not able to buy components from its partners, paying in this currency. It is a vicious cycle.

[Khilkevich] Do you not think that we will depend too much on the Russian Central Bank when ruble becomes common currency? It will fix ruble exchange rates against other currencies, regulate hard currency reserves, etc.

[Zalamay] The current draft agreement does not provide for this. Such questions will be regulated by a separate agreement. I believe that the hard currency reserves should remain in the National Bank of Belarus but accompanied by joint regulating of hard currencies. Our document provides for all problems to be resolved jointly.

[Khilkevich] The draft agreement provides for unification of national legislation. Are differences between legal acts of the three countries significant?

[Zalamay] In general, we have identical legislations. We have not split so dramatically. We hope that our legislatures will create working groups—appropriate negotiations have been already held—which will work it out. Supreme Soviets should have the good-will to advance in one direction. We should meet the new year with completely new quality.

[Khilkevich] Where would a headquarters of joint command be located?

[Zalamay] This issue will be decided by the heads of governments. Each one of the countries has the possibility of creating such complex.

[Khilkevich] The Russian and Polish presidents signed an agreement that provides for Poland receiving billions [currency not specified] for building a gas pipeline on its territory. Part of this pipeline will also cross Belarusian territory. Is it taken into consideration, in the course of negotiations, that Belarus is a window to Europe, that transport thoroughfares, communication lines, and electricity lines crisscross its territory?

[Zalamay] Of course. When it comes to the "Polish project," different versions were considered. Finally, it was decided that the gas pipeline would go through our territory. It will double our gas consumption and provide an opportunity to earn some money for gas payments. It is a great convenience for us.

[Khilkevich] How can this union affect the CIS's fate? Is it just a "Trojan Horse?"

[Zalamay] Close economic cooperation cannot be isolated from political processes and defense teamwork. The Supreme Soviet discussed those issues as a whole, on the last session. There is a paragraph in our document that provides for economic-military cooperation. It means cooperation in conversion of the military industry, technical and economic cooperation between defense complex enterprises, joint military production, and training of servicemen and military specialists.

[Khilkevich] Uladzimir Alyksandrovich, what can you say about the possibility of confederation with Russia?

[Zalamay] The Russian Supreme Soviet has submitted such a proposal to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. The Belarusian Supreme Soviet has not yet reacted. Nowadays, we are negotiating possible economic rapprochement. This is one of today's weakest points. Confederation means political and military cooperation. This is the Supreme Soviet's responsibility.

[Khilkevich] Yet, signing this agreement, we are somehow giving up our sovereignty...

[Zalamay] Let us put it this way: Mutual concessions are being made. We have to evaluate our current situation while thinking about sovereignty. We should also view the situation in the world, which is experiencing not only disintegration, but also integration processes. Today, the best way to maintain sovereignty is to strengthen the economy. Life will show us further stages of development.

[Khilkevich] Ukrainian leaders have made certain statements showing that no agreement is acceptable for them because they feel it would threaten their sovereignty. It is possible that they will refuse to sign the agreement. What will be next in such a case?

[Zalamay] We will sign the document for the Russian and Belarusian side and submit it to our legislatures. We cannot delay it any longer.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Sep

LD2109065093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0506 GMT 21 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 21 ITAR-TASS—The resumption of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is in the focus of attention of today's press.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA sets forth a report, made at a press conference here by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, under the headline "Sanctions Imposed on the Warring Parties are the Only Thing That Can Stop the

Conflict in Abkhazia"—a phrase from his report made at a press conference. The newspaper also frontpages a report on his meeting with his British counterpart Malcolm Rifkind, who is here on an official visit. At the request of the British side, Grachev commented on the development of the military-political situation in Abkhazia. The newspaper stresses his words that what is taking place there is a regular civil war, and the immediate withdrawal of Georgian armed units from the territory of Abkhazia is the only way to overcome the military crisis in Abkhazia.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes a report of its correspondent about that conflict, entitled "Abkhazia: Cannonade Heard in Moscow." Touching upon the shelling on September 17 of the paratrooper assault battalion of the Russian Armed Forces, deployed in the outskirts of Sukhumi, the newspaper writes: "Russia is again sustaining losses in somebody else's war." The newspaper carries fragments from an interview with Ivan Oganov, a Georgian writer. Speaking about the looting and atrocities, committed by supporters of ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in his country, he said: "This is the Georgia I have never seen before."

Reporting the continuing fierce fighting in Abkhazia, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stresses that neither Georgian, nor Abkhazian side are willing to agree to a compromise. Commenting on the session of the Council of the Association for Socio-Economic Development of Republics, territories and regions of the northern Caucasus, held in Nalchik late last week, the newspaper stresses words from the statement of its leaders, that "the resumption of the war in Abkhazia is a catastrophe for the region."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and PRAVDA also comment on the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The latter writes that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze "is going on with his attempts to force the Abkhazian people to their knees and to turn the autonomous republic into...an arena of an open armed invasion on the part of the West."

Newspapers carry articles about the session of the Federation Council, held in the Kremlin on September 18 with the aim to create it officially. Although this was not done (in the opinion of participants in the session, because the documents—the regulations on the Council and its working schedule—were not ready for signing). The session, according to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, "opened up a new stage in the political life of Russia, since it actually proclaimed the need for pre-term elections both of the parliament and the president." Commenting on President Yeltsin's consent to early presidential elections, the newspaper writes that such elections "were the only possible compromise left for Yeltsin and the parliament."

Writing about Ruslan Khasbulatov's accusations that the president is planning to impose "a martial law" or "a state of emergency" in the coming days, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that the chairman of the parliaments got so carried away by the "defense of democracy", that it is becoming dangerous.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes an interview with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, who said that Lithuanian-Russian relations are becoming normal, civilised bilateral relations. He stressed that his forthcoming meeting with President Yeltsin will open up a new stage in the history of Lithuanian-Russian relations.

Georgian Envoy Questions Russian Stance on Abkhazia*PM2009171593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Sep 93 First Edition p 1*

[Georgiy Melikyan's report: "Only Compliance With Sochi Agreement Can Stop Bloodshed in Abkhazia"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a conversation with me Valerian Advadze, the Republic of Georgia's ambassador in Russia, stressed that the border between Russia and Georgia has still not been closed, although this is stipulated by the agreement. As a result the infiltration of mercenaries onto Georgian territory continues and arms are still being brought into the country. The ambassador also focused attention on the fact that the locks and bolts removed from the heavy equipment of both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides have turned up in the hands of Abkhaz formations. They were, after all, handed over to representatives of the Russian Army....

Finally, according to the Sochi agreement, Russia committed itself to performing its role of guarantor by any methods, including recourse to force. In reality, however, the Georgian side believes, Russian representatives are limiting themselves to statements instead of, for example, creating a buffer zone in the conflict region, Ambassador Advadze concluded. [passage omitted]

Caucasian Peoples Call For Support to Abkhazia*LD2009181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556
GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] A session of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples held in Adygeya on Sunday [19 September] appealed to the peoples of the North Caucasus to "give support to the just fight of the Abkhazian people and render them every form of assistance, including support from a volunteer movement."

The Confederation described Russia's economic sanctions against Abkhazia as a form of "support for the bloodthirsty regime of Shevardnadze."

More on Grachev News Conference on Abkhazia*PM2009204193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 21 Sep 93 pp 1, 3*

[Vladimir Urban report: "Only Sanctions Against Warring Sides Can Halt Conflict in Abkhazia. News Conference of Russian Federation Minister of Defense"]

[Text] Why has the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict flared up anew? How is the bloodshed to be stopped? What should be the role of Russia, which acted as the guarantor of the observance of the cease-fire agreement? Last Saturday [18 September] journalists were able to receive answers to these questions firsthand, as the saying goes. At 1025 hours Russian Minister of Defense Army General Pavel Grachev, who had been visiting the conflict zone, flew in from Sochi and literally one hour later held a news conference for the Russian and foreign mass media.

Causes of Violation of Armistice

Army General Pavel Grachev reported that, in connection with the deterioration of the situation on the Georgian-Abkhaz front and in accordance with a directive of the Russian Federation president, he flew to Gudauta on the evening of 16 September, and at 0030 hours 17 September was at the scene. During the night the minister of defense listened to the leaders of the Russian troops temporarily stationed in Abkhazia. It became clear from the reports that both sides had committed serious violations of the Abkhazia cease-fire agreement in the conflict zone.

For example, the Abkhaz side had been first to open fire, despite the armistice, on the eastern front. What happened next was like a chain reaction. Straightaway combat operations were resumed both on the eastern front and in the region of Sukhumi. Neither Abkhaz nor Georgian leaders could influence the situation.

I unequivocally reached the conclusion, the minister stated, that not all military formations participating in the conflict are under the control of the Georgian and Abkhaz political and military leaderships. In the regions of combat operations there are groups capable of provoking armed confrontations, and this is what took place on the eastern sector.

There are also violations of point 6 of the agreement. Despite numerous statements, arms and combat equipment have not been fully withdrawn from the zone of combat operations. The Georgians have mainly withdrawn hardware that was due for repair. And the Abkhazians, although they have actually withdrawn their equipment, have appointed collection points so close to the front that, if need be, it can easily be brought into battle in a short time.

All these factors facilitated the fact that the conflict, which was provoked on one sector, escalated into active combat operations.

Meetings With V. Ardzinba and E. Shevardnadze

On the morning of 17 September, Pavel Grachev related, a conversation of more than 90 minutes took place with Vladislav Ardzinba in the headquarters of the 345th regiment. The Russian Federation defense minister raised the question of an immediate cease-fire and the retreat of Abkhaz troops to the separation line stipulated by the armistice agreement. Unfortunately, by this time the situation had developed in such a way that Abkhaz formations had reached the western outskirts of Sukhumi and occupied the commanding heights around the city. Thus Ardzinba replied to all proposals in the negative. He was already virtually unable to influence the field commanders, who, for understandable reasons, would have categorically refused to retreat and abandon sections of terrain which they had taken in battle. The chairman of the Abkhaz parliament promised only that his troops would not enter the city and, in particular, would not conduct any combat operations against the civilian population.

Since that situation had arisen, Pavel Grachev continued, it was proposed to Ardzinba that he should meet with

Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze in Sukhumi and that he should halt combat operations for the duration of the talks. Ardzinba agreed to such a meeting only in Russia. But Shevardnadze, as quickly became apparent, rejected direct talks with the Abkhaz leader altogether.

At 1200 hours 17 September a meeting took place in Adler between the Russian Federation minister of defense and the Georgian leader. Here too Shevardnadze confirmed his refusal to hold talks with Ardzinba. When the Georgian side again began to insist that Russia use its Armed Forces to influence the situation, the Russian Federation defense minister continued, and seeing that the sides would not accept political methods, I put forward an unexpected proposal. It was a plan (elaborated the previous evening) to employ additional forces and resources of the Russian side all along the line of the Georgian-Abkhaz front. Two divisions and one brigade, after redeployment by air, were to be airlifted to two airfields [posle perebroski po vozdukhу dolzhny byli desantirovatsya na dva aerodroma] (Gudauta and Sukhumi). Then they were to advance into the regions of combat operations, to separate and blockade the warring forces and disarm them. In this way the conflict could be ended within two-three days. Naturally, the separation and disarmament would have to be carried out without destroying the warring groups, and with the agreement of the warring sides, with their goodwill. After that it would be a job for the politicians—to come to an agreement.

But members of the Georgian delegation received this proposal with the greatest unease, at which I remarked—Pavel Grachev stressed at his news conference—that it was only a proposal, and it was for them to decide. Moreover, this plan could be implemented only after confirmation by the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, which have the full right not to agree to such an option; but I, as minister of defense, saw no other solution to the situation prevailing in the conflict zone—only through the use of greater forces.

Since this proposal too was rejected, I was obliged to ask the Georgian delegation: What do you want from Russia anyway, how should it influence your internal conflict? A request of the following nature ensued. They want us to strengthen the 901st separate paratroop battalion deployed in Sukhumi and to advance it to the demarcation line along the Gumista River.... Looking at the map, it was possible to see just by the length of the front that there was no way that 200-300 men could save the situation on the line of confrontation, and that Russian troops would themselves suffer losses. The Russian Federation defense minister called this option illogical. Moreover, according to the agreement of 27 July, Russian troops temporarily stationed in Abkhazia are to observe strict neutrality, and international peacekeeping forces are to be brought in to maintain the cease-fire regulations. And a Russian contingent is only to be brought in after consultations with the United Nations. Thus in the given case too, Pavel Grachev said, I cannot make any decision independently.

How To Halt the Conflict?

The cease-fire is primarily a matter for Georgia itself. And if it is necessary for Russia to help, it should be approached according to all the international rules in line with UN decisions, Pavel Grachev stated. In my view, he stressed, right now neither the Georgian nor the Abkhaz side desires peace. So Russia should not be trying to resolve this question alone. This question should be resolved within the UN framework. The Russian Federation minister of defense also proposed imposing tough political, economic, and other sanctions simultaneously on all parties to the conflict.

Replying to journalists' questions, Pavel Grachev said that the Russian Federation president already knows about the results of the talks and about his proposals. The defense minister also noted once again that he opposes the combat use of Russian Armed Forces in this conflict. "I do not want to be cursed by my people," Pavel Grachev concluded. The only possibility for using them is as peace-keeping forces.

Participating in the news conference were Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, and Colonel General Viktor Barynkin, chief of the General Staff Main Operations Directorate.

British Defense Secretary Continues Visit

Kozyrev Comments on NATO

LD2009174493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Russia is keen to build up contacts with NATO, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told visiting British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in Moscow on Monday [20 September].

The ministry pledged his country's commitment to be the first as far as cooperation with Britain and NATO was concerned.

At the same time, Kozyrev warned against undue haste in determining the forms of NATO involvement in the European process "particularly by increasing the alliance's numerical strength." In his view, "it would be better to focus on more pragmatic goals with the build up of its peacemaking potential being the main one."

Speaking afterwards, Rifkind said he agreed with the Russian minister's view on this adding that NATO itself must work a good deal on those forms of development including the question of new members.

Rifkind Meets Stepashin

LD2009194993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Chairman of the Defense and Security Commission Sergey Stepashin met in Moscow to discuss Russia's military reform.

Speaking afterwards, Stepashin said the question of Russian troop withdrawals from Estonia and Latvia had also come on the agenda. He said Rifkind had showed "full understanding that the Russian pullout was closely linked to respect for human rights in those countries."

In his words, the British minister said it was inconceivable to see NATO without Russian participation as a longer-range prospect. Rifkind stressed that NATO should not be seen as a force confronting anyone as it used to confront the former Warsaw Pact countries in the past but as an entity created to maintain European peace.

It was pointed out that the British Defense Secretary was now planning to visit Ukraine.

Rifkind Talks With Grachev

LD2109090293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0315 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Znamenskiy]

[Text] [Znamenskiy] It is not surprising that the situation in Georgia was question number one on the agenda of the talks between the heads of the military departments of Russia and Great Britain. [Defense Minister] Pavel Grachev explained in detail the Russian Defense Ministry's point of view.

[Begin Grachev recording] For the past two days, I have been monitoring the situation and hearing reports on it. Shevardnadze sent me a telegram yesterday asking for help. I replied: I agree with all your proposals and that you appear (?to be right). When I came back from Georgia, however, I held a news conference during which I said: Right, that is enough. Even if I wanted to repeat a proposal now that I submitted to Shevardnadze three days ago, I could not do it because the situation that has arisen in Sukhumi is such that peacekeeping forces cannot be used to bring about any kind of disengagement. There is street fighting there, and there is fighting around Sukhumi. The use of peacekeeping forces makes no sense. Both sides can only use destructive forces.

The situation in Sukhumi can develop in two ways: Either there can be a further escalation of war and total mobilization of people from all over Georgia and Abkhazia, or the Georgian side, willingly or unwillingly, withdraws from Sukhumi with all its weapons or lays down its weapons in accordance with the Sochi agreement. Only then can the conflict be resolved.

Yesterday I instructed General Chindarov, commander of our group in Abkhazia, to ask Vladislav Ardzinba to open a southeastern corridor for withdrawing armed formations from Sukhumi in the direction of an airport or to the west of Georgia—west or north or to any other point in Georgia. Apart from this, I managed to persuade Ardzinba, with the help of Chindarov, to stop shelling Sukhumi and not to bring troops into Sukhumi. This request is being fulfilled, though not fully. [end recording]

[Znamenskiy] The talks also discussed a role that the Russian military can play in Yugoslav events. Grachev's answer was unambiguous:

[Begin Grachev recording] The point is that no additional military sanctions will help to resolve the Yugoslav issue positively. There is not a single example in world history to prove that military actions can bring stable and long-term order to a country. It is impossible to bring people to their knees by force. [end recording]

[Znamenskiy] Grachev stressed that if any of the sides attacks Serb or Croat troops or rear echelon targets, it may be dragged into the conflict. He also recalled that UN forces in the former Yugoslavia have a separate Russian paratrooper battalion and that Russian intends to send no additional forces there. It should be noted that such a frank exchange of opinions on the most burning issues is a sound foundation for the development of military relations between Russia and Great Britain, and the fact that Grachev and [British Defense Secretary] Malcolm Rifkind signed a protocol on intent proves this.

British, Japanese Premiers Support Democracy in Russia

LD2009204893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo September 20 TASS—British Prime Minister John Major and his Japanese counterpart Morihiro Hosokawa discussed the international political situation, including the developments in Russia, during their talks today. Major is in Japan on an official visit, the head of the British cabinet of ministers told a press conference held in the Japanese capital.

Replying to a question from ITAR-TASS, Major said that both Britain and Japan want to see democracy win in Russia, so that it can continue its development.

He said that the two prime ministers examined Russia's reform program, the problems that face the country, and the possibilities of overcoming these problems. Nobody underestimates the amount of problems which Russia must overcome, said the British head of state. However, he concluded, we noticed that in the last five years Russia has made impressive accomplishments which inspire general respect.

Grachev Against Further Military Force in Yugoslavia

LD2009115493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Narishkin]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—"Additional military sanctions will not help solve the crisis in the former Yugoslavia," announced Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. "History does not know a single example of the establishment of a firm and long-lasting order" through military force, Grachev said in today's conversation with his British colleague Malcolm Rifkind who is in Russia for an official visit.

Explaining the Russian military's position regarding U.N. or NATO plans to deploy their forces in military operations on Yugoslav territory, Pavel Grachev pointed out that any country which strikes Serb or Croat positions or objectives in the rear might be pulled further into the conflict. "It's easy to get yourself involved in a war, it's much harder to get yourself out. I learned this through personal experience", said the general, who led Russian troops in Afghanistan.

The defense minister recalled that a Russian battalion of 900 troops is in former Yugoslavia as part of the U.N. peace-keeping forces, "and for now we are not planning to send any more."

Hungarian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Kozyrev Favors Stronger Ties

LD2009130793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] "Although the Russian parliament has not yet ratified the Russian-Hungarian Treaty on Inter-State Cooperation, concluded in 1991 and "still adheres to the old methods," Russia is convinced that relations with Hungary and other Eastern European countries must be put on a cardinal new footing—strong partnership," Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated on Monday [20 September] shortly before his talks with his Hungarian counterpart Geza Jeszenszky.

"Hungary is located in the center of Europe. It benefits from its historical links with Moscow, concurrently broadening its cooperation with the West," said Kozyrev.

The talks between the Russian and Hungarian foreign ministers are expected to produce a protocol on consultations between the two states' Foreign Ministries and an inter-state treaty on cultural cooperation.

Kozyrev Meets Jeszenszky

LD2009131693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—Bilateral relations between Russia and Hungary are on the rise and even if there are problems they are mostly technical in character, while in the economic sphere definite progress is reported. The Russian Government intends to develop relations with the Hungarian Republic on a new basis which rules out the recurrence of the past, despite the fact that the Russian Parliament has not yet ratified the treaty of goodneighbourliness and cooperation signed between Hungary and Russia in December 1991. Let us hope that the new parliament will prioritise its ratification, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said after his meeting with Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Geza Jeszenszky.

The ministers signed an intergovernmental agreement on cultural cooperation between Russia and Hungary and a protocol on consultations between the ministries of the two countries.

The Russian minister stressed that the Central European countries should play a more active and independent role acting as Europe's political centre instead of its periphery under the influence of NATO, Russia or some other power. Although we do not regard NATO as an aggressive bloc and recognise the right of all countries to decide independently on participation in one or another alliance, Kozyrev explained. The thing in question is to let the current processes proceed without haste, without causing concern to either flank. The main thing is to concentrate pragmatically on those real challenges which exist in Europe.

Referring to the Congress of the Peoples of the USSR, which opened in Moscow today, Kozyrev noted that if the Brezhnev doctrine flopped when the Soviet Union was on the rise, any exertions of political clowns who are trying to revive the Soviet Union on the blank spot and are talking about the revival of its imperial policy in the former Soviet Union and farther afield in eastern Europe are simply detestable.

Geza Jeszenszky said relations between our two countries are developing "very well". According to him they can even be described as "cloudless" so during his talks with Kozyrev there was no need to devote much time to bilateral ties. He admitted that the two countries had very similar viewpoints on the processes in Europe and on the role the two countries see for Central Europe today and in the future.

Agreements Signed

LD2009170393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Russia recognizes Hungary's right to participate in international organizations, including NATO, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists after talks with his Hungarian counterpart Geza Jeszenszky on Monday.

Kozyrev believes that this position does not go against Russia's interests because "Russia does not consider NATO to be its enemy." Kozyrev noted at the same time that "hasty decisions may move Hungary to the periphery of the European process."

"Russia would like Hungary to be in the center of this process, serving as a bridge linking different parts of Europe," said Kozyrev. He also noted that Hungary had always played a special and extremely positive role, preserving its identity and pursuing a policy of its own, even though it was part of the Soviet block. "Once an explosive which triggered off the disintegration of the communist empire, Hungary can play a unique role of the center in the European political, economic and cultural life."

Speaking about the current state of Russian-Hungarian relations, Kozyrev said that they were on the rise and that the emerging problems are of a purely technical character.

He said that the two countries had made noticeable progress in bilateral cooperation, but added that such cooperation should be broadened even further and expressed regret that to this day the Russian parliament had not ratified the Russian-Hungarian Treaty on Cooperation, signed in 1991.

He expressed hope, however, that Russia's new parliament would do so. He said that Russia would develop relations with Hungary on a qualitatively new basis excluding relapses to the past. "During the Soviet era, the Brezhnev doctrine failed. Today, the attempts of certain political clowns to re-build the Soviet Union and its imperial policies from scratch, on the basis of the former Soviet republics, and Eastern and Central Europe, look even more ridiculous," he stated.

Speaking about international sanctions against Yugoslavia, Kozyrev said that Russia and Hungary had suffered from these forced measures. He also announced that shortly, the Russian president's special envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin would join the talks on the Bosnian settlement. Kozyrev expressed hope that a major political breakthrough would be accomplished during the talks, after which the possibility of lifting sanctions might be discussed.

The two foreign ministers signed a protocol on consultations between the Russian and Hungarian foreign ministries and an international agreement on cultural cooperation.

Hungarian Minister Leaves Moscow

LD2109084893 Budapest MTI in English 0757 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, September 21 (MTI)—Concluding his official visit to Moscow, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky on Tuesday left Moscow for Brussels to attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the EC troika and the associated countries.

On Monday, Jeszenszky held talks with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhrai and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Besides bilateral relations, the sides discussed the role of Central Europe, Hungary's planned membership in NATO, and the settlement of the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

In Moscow, Jeszenszky signed agreements on cultural cooperation, and on cooperation between the two foreign ministries.

Covering the visit, the daily 'NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA' stressed that Russia did not want to draw Central Europe into its sphere of interest and hoped that the countries in the region, including Hungary, would preserve their balanced relations with Moscow.

Grachev Receives Italian Defense Minister

LD2009195993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—Russian defence Minister Pavel Grachev received Italian Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri at his request. Fabio Fabbri arrived in Moscow on a private visit.

During the conversation the two ministers exchanged views on ways of the consolidation of the security in different regions, the situation in hotbeds of tension and perspectives of the Russian-Italian cooperation in the military field.

Magazine Runs Article on Italian-Soviet Contacts

LD2009210793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Sources in the Russian Prosecutor General's Office handed over materials on commercial operations between the Soviet leadership and a number of top Italian politicians, members of the former Italian Communist Party, now Democratic Socialist Party, to the Moscow magazine STOLITSA (CAPITAL). All the facts are backed with corresponding documents. This statement was made by the chief editor, Andrey Malgin, at his meeting with journalists today. At the press conference, he answered questions which followed the publication of an article which accuses Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament Giorgio Napolitano and Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Secret Services Ugo Piccoli of secret ties with the Soviet leadership and the KGB.

Malgin pointed out that the magazine's board of editors intended to continue investigating the "Italian trace" of the Communist Party's money despite the passive attitude to this issue by the Russian General Prosecutor, Valentin Stepankov, and the recent closure of the CPSU International Department's archives for the public.

German Bundeswehr Member Detained at Air Base

LD2009153493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Berlin September 20 TASS—On Sunday, a Bundeswehr man was detained on the Russian Western Army's field in Sperenberg [placename as received], state of Brandenburg.

A Russian military spokesman said today that the man, Andreas Riedel, was found with a camera, a special manual for identifying different types of aircraft and a topographical map of the military base. Riedel admitted that he was on the air base for intelligence-gathering purposes.

The spokesman recalled that earlier, a civilian German citizen, Stefan Buetner, was detained on the same base while photographing aircraft and equipment. He had a

camera with special lenses, binoculars, a map of the air base, and a guide to tactical and technical details of the Soviet-made planes.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visits Slovakia

LD2009213293 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1991
GMT 20 Sep 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Vladimir Beskromny]

[Text] Bratislava September 20 TASS—To examine the foreign policy of the Slovakian Republic is the main goal of the visit to Slovakia of the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. The delegation is headed by chairman of the parliamentary committee for international affairs and foreign economic relations Yevgeniy Ambartsumov.

Chairman of the National Council (parliament) of the Slovakian Republic Augustin Marian Huska received the Russian delegation. Then Russian parliamentarians met with State Secretary of the Slovakian Foreign Ministry Janus Lisuch. The two sides discussed the intention of the Slovakian Republic to join NATO. The Slovakian official stressed that Slovakia is aimed at the gradual integration to existing economic, political and military structures of Europe.

Yevgeniy Ambartsumov noted that Russia would not like to have another bloc on its borders. NATO is changing and will continue changing, it is not only the military, but the political organisation. At present NATO countries stress the importance of the political aspect. "As a whole I have no impression that NATO is ready to open doors for countries of Eastern Europe. Moreover, there are contradictions between governments of these states," Ambartsumov said.

U.S., UK Ambassadorial 'Dismissal' Viewed

MK1809093293 Moscow *SEGODNYA in Russian* No. 54, 18 Sep 93 (signed to press 17 Sep) p 2

[Ignat Lebyadkin report under the "Behind the Scenes" rubric: "President Gave It, President Takes It Away. On the Dismissal of the Ambassadors to Washington and London"]

[Text] Russian Ambassador to the United States Vladimir Lukin's possible dismissal was made public for the first time on 9 September. At a briefing at the White House, Dee Dee Meyers was asked whether it was true that Minister Kozyrev was recalling Lukin for being too explicitly pro-American. Dee Dee Meyers responded that she did not have this information. It is plainly evident that by that time, Moscow had already received an agreement to Yuliy Vorontsov's appointment and that the presidential edict to that effect was signed right before Andrey Kozyrev's arrival in Washington. It was he who broke the news to the ambassador.

Commenting on the removal, a highly knowledgeable source on Smolensk Square [the Foreign Ministry seat] pointed in the first instance to the textual likeness in two different publications on the subject and their "hysterical tone." The Foreign Ministry is not inclined to dramatize

an effectively trivial event. According to the source, the reason for the ambassador's replacement is that the period of mutual euphoria has come to an end—people at the Foreign Ministry think that now is not the time for "general political talk and declarations" but for "nitty-gritty diplomatic work in dozens of areas." In this connection, the source cited Lukin himself, who spoke not so long ago about "the infantile pro-Americanism" of some Russian politicians. "Our relations have long outgrown the Washington declaration or the Vancouver spirit," our interlocutor said. "The spirit and declarations belong to the level of presidents and ministers, but afterward a mechanism for working out all these matters in a rough form should be at work, and this, of course, is the business of the embassy, not delegations." Delegations, the source continued, come and go, but what we need is an embassy that will engage not so much in general political assessments and discussion but in the professional realization of specific matters and also in sending appropriate signals to Moscow. "An embassy," the diplomat explained, "performs monitoring functions, if you wish. Why is it that one agreement or another is sometimes vulnerable from the point of view of the language or nuances? The reason is that they tend to be drawn up during visits at the top level or at the level of ministers or at the level of a delegation headed by, say, Koptev. I beg your pardon, but who is going to sit down and streamline the phrasing?" Our interlocutor stressed, however, that the agreement signed by Koptev was in effect a good one, and "I am ready to prove this." In conclusion, he recalled that the Americans realized before us that our relations have entered a new stage, and this is why they replaced Strauss with Pickering, but no one is making a sensation out of it.

From another equally knowledgeable source we also managed to obtain a comment on Boris Pankin's removal. He said that the presidential edict was prompted by Pankin's "hysterics" in *IZVESTIYA*. At any rate, if before the publication Pankin, as he himself acknowledged, was made a fairly flattering offer, now he is in for what is called a dismissal without retirement benefits. Staffers at the Foreign Ministry have an ironic view of Boris Dmitriyevich's vituperations against secret services whose intrigues he holds accountable for his recall. As for his plans to get around to "creative work," this euphemism apparently stands for private business in Sweden, in which Boris Pankin has been engaged "for more than one day," the source said.

Foreign Nuclear Subs Increase Reconnaissance Activity

LD2009125093 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1042 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Sep—An analysis of the activities of foreign nuclear submarines in the seas around Russia shows that there is no reduction, but on the contrary, an increase in reconnaissance activities. For example, in the Barents Sea alone, in 1993 up to eight foreign nuclear submarines were discovered in one month, a significant

number of which were in the immediate proximity of Russian territorial waters. A report from the Russian Navy press service, received by ITAR-TASS today, reports this activity.

According to the report all these incidents do not inspire confidence in the correct understanding by the heads of the military departments of a number of countries of the need to take adequate measures to reduce the vigorous activities of naval forces and increase confidence and security in seafaring. At the same time the Russian Federation Navy, implementing agreements and accords between the leading nuclear powers, is systematically reducing its nuclear weaponry and has significantly cut the activities of its nuclear submarines in the Pacific Ocean and brought them closer to its own shores.

The Russian Federation Navy press service reports that the Russian Naval Command has made proposals at meetings with representatives of military departments of the main naval powers aimed at increasing measures of confidence and security in seafaring in adjacent seas. The need to increase the security of underwater shipping was noted as a particular point.

Proceeding from an evaluation of the ensuing situation, the Russian Naval Command again expresses its readiness to once more return to the problem of increasing the security of seafaring in adjacent waters.

Official Visits Israel, Expresses Support for Rabin

LD2009220193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1937 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv September 20 TASS—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin received visiting Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin on Monday.

Adamishin came here for a working visit while on a tour round the Middle East.

Rabin and Adamishin exchanged views on current situation in the region.

Rabin elaborated Israel's approach to peace settlement in the Middle East under the new circumstances brought about by the recent Israeli-Palestinian agreements. He greatly appreciated Russia's role as a co-sponsor in the efforts aimed at peace settlement and declared for a close bilateral cooperation in this field to be continued.

Adamishin expressed Russia's readiness to give all-round support to enable an effective implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles and expansion of the "area of concord" between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

It would be in the interests of an all-round and lasting peace settlement in the region to add some qualitative changes in the talks between Israel and Syria and Lebanon to the bilateral agreements between Israel and PLO and Jordan, Adamishin said.

Rabin confirmed Israel's resolve to work at achieving mutually acceptable Arab-Israeli agreements.

After that, Adamishin met Israeli President Ezer Weizman. They discussed various issues relating to peace settlement in the Middle East.

Weizman emphasized that Israel had made a historical choice in favour of achieving peace in the region by means of political compromises with Arab nations.

Russian diplomacy makes a concerted effort to support the first steps toward mutual understanding and concord made by the participants in the Middle-East settlement process, Adamishin noted.

The parties expressed their satisfaction with progress in the development of Russo-Israeli ties in various fields which was furthered by active political contacts between the two countries.

Later in the day, Adamishin met representatives of "Likud", Israel's major opposition party.

Russian, Japanese Officials Discuss Cooperation

PM2009121793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed "Monitoring" column report: "Contacts"]

[Text] Vladimir Korelskiy, chairman of the Russian Fishing Industry Committee, has met with Yokomichi Takahiro, governor of Hokkaido, who is in Moscow to attend the second session of the mixed standing commission on economic cooperation between Russia's Far East regions and Hokkaido. There was a discussion of cooperation in the sphere of fishing and the protection of marine resources.

The Russian side voiced concern over the increase in poaching in the open area of the Sea of Okhotsk. The governor of Hokkaido talked about measures being taken by Japanese inspectors to protect fish stocks.

The sides arrived at the conclusion that they need to keep one another better informed about proposed joint scientific research and work together to protect Far East fish resources.

UK Aircraft Deal With India Viewed

PM2109081593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Nikolay Paklin report: "India Preferred British Planes"]

[Text] Delhi—After lengthy disputes and discussions India, which is preparing to replace its fleet of military aircraft, has made its choice: The Ministry of Defense has decided to acquire 66 Hawk aircraft from Britain. This will cost the Indian treasury 6 billion Indian rupees.

The parliamentary opposition criticized the military's decision. The deputies emphasized that had they chosen in favor of the Russian MiG's or Czech L-39's, which also participated in the "competition," the purchase would have cost half as much.

It is very possible that the politicians have had the last word. During the visit to Delhi of the British prime minister and a group of industrialists, clear pressure was put on the Indian leadership in order to push it into buying the British aircraft. Air Chief Marshal N.S. Suri, then chief of staff of the Indian Air Force (he has now retired), played a particularly active role in closing the deal.

It is clearly not right to condemn the British for their persistence and resourcefulness: They are fighting for sales territories for their output. But it is worth following their example—after all we are quickly losing the Indian market.

Sobchak, Thai Official Discuss Relations

BK2109015393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 93 p A4

[By Kawi Chongkithawon]

[Text] St Petersburg, Russia—Bangkok and St Petersburg have agreed to become sister cities and jointly celebrate the centennial of Thai-Russian relations, planned for 1997.

The celebrations will include exhibitions and exchange visits by dignitaries and cultural troupes.

Given the significance of St Petersburg's historical ties with Thailand efforts are now being made in Russia to gather and catalogue all artifacts, documents and gifts which the Siamese kings and officials had given to Russia during the golden years of their relations from the late 19th century up to 1917.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan told reporters yesterday that Thailand and St Petersburg will do everything they can to promote ties and to make the upcoming centennial celebration a special event.

Future Bangkok-St Petersburg cooperation was quickly agreed upon during the 90-minute talks between Surin and St Petersburg mayor Anali Sobchak, who has been credited as being a major force behind the current economic reforms in Russia.

Sobchak, the city's first elected mayor, said the centennial celebrations would include a "Bangkok Day".

In response to an invitation from Surin, Sobchak said he might visit Thailand aboard the first chartered flight from St Petersburg to Bangkok in the near future. The relevant authorities of both sides are planning direct flights between the two touristic cities.

Surin said he asked the mayor to propose names of Thai honorary consuls for St Petersburg. "We are anxious to set up a consulate here as soon as possible," he told the press conference.

King Rama V visited St Petersburg, known as Leningrad for most of this century, nearly a hundred years ago and subsequently sent his children to schools here to learn technical skills. One of them married a Russian woman.

Next year, St Petersburg will hold an exhibition in Bangkok of memorabilia used to welcome King Rama V during his trip to Russia.

HRH Prince [as published] Maha Chakkri Sirinthon came here in March to study the historical ties between Thailand and Russia.

Sobchak said that St Petersburg wants to establish trade links with Asia-Pacific and considers Thailand a key gateway to the region. He said most of the city's trade is with the East Asian economy rather than its European neighbours.

In return, Surin said that Thailand also views this historic city as a bridge to the rest of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as Eastern Europe.

Thai businessmen accompanying the delegation have expressed interest in setting up a holding company to facilitate trade and investment in a proposed special economic zone proposed by St Petersburg authorities.

Surin also exchanged views with Aleksandr Belyaev of the St Petersburg Parliament. St Petersburg is an autonomously administered city.

After Surin's week-long visit to Russia and Kazakhstan, he will next travel to Italy where he is to give a keynote address at a Thai trade exhibition and hold bilateral talks with his Italian counterpart.

'Public Opinion Leaders' Questioned on Foreign Policy

MK1809105593 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 54, 18 Sep 93 (signed to press 17 Sep) p 3

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report under "Survey" rubric: "The Military and Entrepreneurs Support Russia's Foreign Policy. State Enterprise Managers and Party Leaders Are United in Their Discontent"]

[Text] The VP sociological service directed by Professor Boris Grushin has published the results of a survey of 396 public opinion leaders for the past month. One of the questions asked was: "How far does the foreign policy of the Russian leadership respond to Russia's interests?"

The greatest trust in Russia's foreign policy has been demonstrated by leaders of the press (A + B = 74 percent; C + D = 22 percent); people in the sphere of science and culture (A + B = 66 percent; C + D = 24 percent); entrepreneurs (A + B = 62 percent; C + D = 34 percent); military leaders (A + B = 60 percent; C + D = 40 percent); and representatives of the executive branch (A + B = 58 percent; C + D = 34 percent).

Those rejecting Russia's foreign policy include political party leaders (A + B = 22 percent; C + D = 76 percent) and state enterprise managers (A + B = 22 percent; C + D = 78 percent), who are running far ahead of people's deputies (A + B = 41 percent; C + D = 54 percent).

(The distribution of answers in the above groups is shown as a percentage of the overall volume of respective groups, excluding those not sure).

[Article is accompanied by following boxed diagram]

How far does the foreign policy of the Russian leadership respond to Russia's interests? (as a percentage of the number of those polled) [subhead]

- 1 [A]. Definitely YES—3.0
- 2 [B]. For the most part YES—47.7
- 3 [C]. For the most part NO—28.7
- 4 [D]. Definitely NO—16.4
- 5 [E]. Not sure—4.2

Scientific Cooperation Agreement Signed With RSA

PM2009124393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed "Monitoring" column report: "Agreements"]

[Text] The South African minister of national education and educational coordination and Zurab Yakobashvili, Russian Federation minister of science and technical policy, have signed an agreement in Capetown on scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. The document names as priority areas biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, new materials, energy, and ecology.

Chechnya, Sudan Sign Bilateral Agreements

LD2009202293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Vosboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Chechnya and Sudan have signed a number of bilateral economic agreements. Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef told INTERFAX on arrival in the capital Grozny on Monday [20 September]. The two countries also plan to promote an exchange of teachers and students.

On the results of a brief Middle East tour by the Chechen government delegation, Yusef said the Islamic countries were prepared to provide an immediate aid to Russia if Moscow gives recognition to Chechen independence and resolves the conflict between Ossetia and Ingushetia.

On the situation in the northern Caucasus, the minister pledged his country's commitment to act as peacemaker in solving the regional ethnic conflicts.

Political Issues

Constitutional Court Views President-Parliament Feud

Deputy Chairman Comments

LD2009133893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1242 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS observer Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 20 tass—"The offence hurled by the parliament speaker at the Russian president should not be disregarded, since it discredits the state," Constitutional Court Deputy Chairman Nikolay Vitruk told ITAR-TASS here on Monday [20 September].

The disgraceful insult addressed by Ruslan Khasbulatov to the Russian leader was seen not only by deputies of all levels who participated in a conference but also by millions of Russians who watched the unseemly scene on television.

Thus, Khasbulatov offended citizens of the country who voted at the presidential elections for Boris Yeltsin and confirmed their confidence in him at the April 25 referendum. The speaker also showed complete disrespect for the world community, since normal politicians do not permit themselves such escapades.

"It is unbecoming for statesmen to express outloud everything they take into their heads: They should think over what they say. They are obliged to do so by their high office as well as by a feeling of responsibility if they have such," member of the Presidential Council Leonid Smirnyagin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

In his opinion, Khasbulatov showed his real face and demonstrated political irresponsibility which should not pass with impunity.

While the Procurator-General's Office which is duty-bound to respond to cases offending the president's honour and dignity, keeps mum, the Constitutional Court, according to Vitruk, will meet in session later in the day to discuss the event.

According to Vitruk, the Constitutional Court has the right to issue a statement or to send a message to the Russian parliament. He noted that Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin whom he met today, also condemns the reprehensible act by the speaker.

However, in Vitruk's opinion, "Valeriy Zorkin who was present at the conference where Khasbulatov offended the president, could respond on the spot to the speaker's malicious act".

As for legislators, they have not responded in any way to the speaker's attack for the time being. There were no statements from the parliamentary ethics committee either.

On the other hand, a statement by the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov says that the Russian people will not fall for provocations from Khasbulatov and will decide Russia's destiny "under the guidance of the leader reflecting the national interests of the homeland".

Court Discusses Constitutional Legality

LD2009223593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1516 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 20 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Today, members of the Constitutional Court held a meeting under the chairmanship of Valeriy Zorkin. Its participants exchanged opinions on the state of the constitutional legality in Russia. In connection with the worsening of the constitutional crisis and the confrontation between the executive and the legislative powers, reports the press service of the Russian Constitutional Court, a decision was made to study this question more closely. It is expected that the Constitutional Court will very soon address the president, the Supreme Soviet, and leaders of oblasts and autonomous okrugs with an appeal in which it will spell out its view on ways out of the constitutional crisis and measures aimed at reaching social accord, the protection of the Constitution, and stabilization of the constitutional system.

Official Calls For Early Elections

LD2009230793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1632 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation Constitutional Court is beginning to collate and analyze all the necessary materials for an objective assessment of the political situation in the country and of the actions of the country's highest officials in connection with that. The step taken by the court has been dictated by an extremely worrying development of the constitutional crisis in the last few days, and an extreme worsening of the confrontation between the two branches of power. This was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent by Nikolay Vitruk, deputy chairman of the court, after the end of a regular working meeting of the Constitutional Court during which constitutional legality in the Russian Federation was considered.

The deputy chairman of the Constitutional Court pointed out that early elections could be the only possible legal way out of the political crisis in Russia. "An early exit from the political scene" of the two camps, he said, is not only a political matter but a legal one as well. All other legitimate solutions to the present situation have been exhausted, he said.

Khasbulatov Blamed for Feud With Yeltsin

MK2109093693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1

[Chief Editor Vitaliy Tretyakov article: "Yeltsin-Khasbulatov: Battle to the Death? Speaker Is So Keen on 'Defending Democracy' That This Is Getting Dangerous"]

[Text] A breakthrough for the better in the Russian president's political tactics and maybe even strategy has coincided with the stepping-up of the confrontational line of the parliament, and personally of Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov (I do not consider here the vice president's similar stance because "the presidential onslaught" against

Rutskoy does not appear to leave the latter with any other opportunities except for head-to-head confrontation).

Ruslan Khasbulatov's stance lacks logic. He himself has repeatedly mentioned the president's obstinacy, but when Boris Yeltsin has finally given up a number of his most notorious and plainly undemocratic intentions, the speaker acts as if he were trying to provoke the president precisely into what he himself opposed.

Let us recall the president's latest compromise steps: removing Shumeyko and Poltoranin from the top political nomenklatura; appointing to the post of security minister a career professional and not "his own" man; giving up the idea of holding parliamentary elections this fall; and, finally, agreeing to hold early presidential elections (formerly Boris Yeltsin hated the very thought of this). Mr. Khasbulatov pretended not to have noticed the last two concessions and simply ignored them in his Saturday address, suggesting instead that the soviets circle the wagons and virtually put up armed resistance throughout the country.

Many things in his address, as is always the case with Ruslan Khasbulatov, are correct in principle. However, first, he—for the first time in public—spoke very harshly about the president personally, repeating Deputy Vitaliy Urazhtsev's spring witticism about "soborness," which is fairly risky for this level. Second, he effectively accused the president of making preparations for introducing "martial law" or "emergency rule" in the next few days. If he means it, this charge should be supported by serious arguments (there were grounds for such charges in March). If there are no arguments based on facts, this attack is mostly reminiscent of a provocation.

If readers remember, Ruslan Khasbulatov welcomed my article called "The Agony of a Political Regime," which was published some time ago, and he even wrote that he agreed with it. But the article dealt with the regime as a whole, not only its presidential part. People's deputies who are no longer embarrassed to push 10 voting buttons with one hand are apparently the most impressive, albeit not the most important, proof of this.

Like any voter, I do not see any difference as to who might bring a dictator to the Kremlin—the presidential entourage or the parliamentary opposition. Nor does it make any difference if the dictator will be "from the president," but he will be brought to power by the parliament's crazy policy. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the president has never allowed himself to speak in such terms about the speaker. Hence, Ruslan Khasbulatov is doing his utmost to make human contact—that is, political contact as well—impossible between them.

A separate subject is the idea of holding elections to a joint Commonwealth parliament and creating a Commonwealth government, which the Supreme Soviet chairman put forward recently. To all appearances, Ruslan Khasbulatov, having lost the political initiative, is trying to regain it by laying claim to an idea which does not raise serious doubts as to its future prospects, but which does not belong to the prospects of the present day, either.

Presently we are undoubtedly undergoing a spontaneous period of "the rebirth of the USSR." But the question whether the USSR will be reborn in 1994 can be answered with three "No's." No, because this is impossible given this split inside Russia. No, because throwing around political slogans prematurely closes the prospect for their implementation instead of opening it up. No, because this is impossible in principle as long as those who signed the Belovezhskaya Forest agreement and the parliaments that ratified it remain in power. This, however, is a subject for another discussion. We, however, should be concerned about one thing: Will Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov become mortal enemies (or have they already become such)? If the answer is "Yes," then it is the speaker who took a decisive step toward this. And all responsibility for the consequences will rest with him.

Gerashchenko Seeks Good Relations With Gaydar

MK2109091993 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 55, 21 Sep 93 (signed to press 20 Sep) p 1

[Unattributed SEGODNYA report: "Viktor Gerashchenko Hopes for Interaction With Yegor Gaydar"]

[Text] Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko has stated that he hopes for constructive interaction with Yegor Gaydar, who was appointed first deputy prime minister on Saturday. He said he expected "wise decisions" from Mr. Gaydar. "We have always had normal, even good relations," Mr. Gerashchenko stated. "I think there will be no unnecessary confrontation between us, which is taking place in the case of some other organs of the executive branch," he said, probably hinting at complications that have arisen between the Russian Federation Central Bank and the Russian Finance Ministry.

Gaydar's Future Relations With Fedorov Weighed

MK2109100593 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 55, 21 Sep 93 (signed to press 20 Sep) p 2

[Aleksandr Bekker article under "Government" rubric: Gaydar May Become Too Big a Trump in the Government. The Economy and Finance Ministers: Allies or Rivals?"]

[Text] Parliament cannot possibly be suspected of sympathizing with the central executive branch. Yegor Gaydar's arrival in the Council of Ministers will surely add oil to the fire. His comeback objectively reinforces the government's reformist potential. Nonetheless, there are also some underwater reefs here. In December 1992 Gaydar the economist left Staraya Ploshchad and today Gaydar the politician—leader of the Russia's Choice bloc—returns. Possibly, some of his decisions will now be dictated not only by economic considerations. To Minister Boris Fedorov, in charge of financial stabilization, this may prove unacceptable. Particular disagreements over tax policy and the ruble's exchange rate may grow into serious alienation. Conflicts may emerge over purely technical matters: Gaydar's orders to deputy finance ministers bypassing Minister Fedorov himself. By the way, under the Law on the Council of Ministers, the finance minister is accountable only to the premier. Should Boris Fedorov

carry out the instructions of Yegor Gaydar, the man in charge of the economic block in the government? Who will now head talks with the Central Bank and chair sessions of the Council of Ministers' Credit Commission? Premier Gaydar started all this, and now it is in the hands of Minister Fedorov.... In a word, the first deputy premier will need special scrupulousness in such matters.

Yegor Gaydar can hardly agree now to play the role of Grigoriy Yavlinskiy in the fall of 1990 when the latter—a vice premier responsible for economic reform in the Silayev government—was in fact a military leader without an army. At the same time, Yegor Gaydar has not made any statements about combining his vice premiership with the post of economy minister, which at least formally could point to a separation of his terms of reference from those of Boris Fedorov. Moreover, it seems that Ye.T. [Gaydar] is not particularly enthusiastic about the prospect of working in the "Lobov" citadel where the composition of deputy ministers alone seems to have been hand picked. "When monetarist policy provokes a production slump, there is no need to prove the fallacy of such a policy.... The time has come to summon enough courage and say: Enough of your ill advised experiments!" This came from Valentin Fedorov, deputy economy minister and former governor of Sakhalin. He studied in Germany for six years, long enough to feel confident about bringing his namesake to reason: "Does the finance minister not see that the ruble's real rate is lowered 4 to 5 times; I have checked on this with experts." Clearly, to join such a "headquarters" is the same as to enter a tiger's cage.

At the same time, the Gaydar-Fedorov duet may alleviate sectoral pressure from Oleg Soskovets and Aleksandr Zaveryukha and streamline the government's relations with Viktor Gerashchenko. For instance, recently the Finance Ministry asked the Central Bank to inform it about its money printing orders to the State Mint. The purely technical request has for some reason caused jitters within the Central Bank, which decided to appeal the Finance Ministry's "curiosity" to the prosecutor's office. Viktor Gerashchenko will find it awkward not to comply with such an innocent request originating from the first deputy premier. When Boris Fedorov joined Viktor Chernomyrdin's Cabinet of Ministers, Petr Aven, former minister of external economic relations, told IZVESTIYA that the vice premier could well take from Yegor Gaydar the laurels of the "father of reform." Due to well-known reasons, the relationship between the two reformers cannot be idyllic. But so much now depends on both of them that in their ambitions they have no right to pass the boundary that turns them from allies into rivals and opponents. Gaydar within the government is the president's trump. It would be sad if, like in a card game ["21"] an ace [11 points] added to 11, proves just one too many.

'Source' Explains Yeltsin's Latest Personnel Decisions

LD2009181593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Excerpt] Commenting on Boris Yeltsin's latest personnel-related decisions, a source close to the president's staff noted that all of them had been taken in order to overcome differences between the Cabinet members and soften the conflict with the parliament.

Speaking about the appointment of Yegor Gaydar to the post of first vice-premier and economics minister, he said that this decision had been taken by the president, then Gaydar's consent was secured and finally the appointment was coordinated with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. Lobov's transfer to the post of the Security Council's secretary was carried out despite the recommendations of experts who proposed the candidacy of Russian Ambassador to France Yuriy Ryzhov to this post (Ryzhov is the author of the Security Council's concept). The same source noted that on the other hand, the candidacy of Lobov, whose political views are close to those of the Security Council's ex-secretary Yuriy Skokov, would be easily endorsed by the Russian parliament (during an informal opinion poll at the 7th Congress of People's Deputies last December, Skokov occupied first place as a possible candidate to the post of prime minister—637 "pros" - INTERFAX).

Commenting on the appointment of Nikolay Golushko to the post of security minister, this expert described it as the best from the parliament's point of view. Golushko's experience as head of the Ukrainian KGB may be useful during talks with Leonid Kravchuk on the most difficult aspects of bilateral relations.

To quote this source, only recently, the draft decree on Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy was a soft alternative to another document, which suspended Rutskoy and Shumeyko from their duties.

The new decree on the vice president, like the president's approval of early elections, with the only correction that the distance between parliamentary and presidential elections has been shortened by six months, are measures definitely aimed at softening confrontation between the two branches of authority. "Ruslan Khasbulatov's inadequate reaction to these steps is the president's major political victory," said this expert.

The Russian president's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said that the parliament speaker's latest statements and moves revealed the last stage of his moral degradation. [passage omitted]

Reasons for Golushko's Appointment Assessed

MK2109084793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Andrey Poleshchuk report under "Special Services" rubric: "Russia Gets a New Security Minister. Boris Yeltsin Has Caused a Surprise After All"]

[Text] Last Saturday [18 September], Russian President Boris Yeltsin finally signed an edict on appointing a new security minister. The man is 56-year-old Nikolay

Golushko, Viktor Barannikov's former first deputy who has performed the functions of Security Ministry head since 28 July 1993.

Nikolay Golushko is a Ukrainian. He graduated from the V. Kuybyshev State University in Tomsk. He began his work in state security bodies as an operations officer in the KGB Kemerovo Oblast Directorate. According to a biographical handout circulated by the Russian Federation Security Ministry's public relations center, after "a long professional career," Nikolay Golushko attained the rank of Lieutenant General and the post of chairman of the Ukrainian KGB. In January 1992 he became deputy and subsequently first deputy Russian security minister. He is married and has a son and three grandchildren.

Nikolay Golushko is the 20th head of the country's security service. Among his predecessors, Yuriy Andropov held this post the longest—for 15 years. The opposite record belongs to Leonid Shebarshin, who held it from 22 to 23 August 1991. Previous Minister Viktor Barannikov served in Lubyanka for a year and five months.

As is known, Boris Yeltsin promised to name a successor to replace the dismissed Barannikov at the end of August. On 28 August Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation presidential administration, said in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that a decision had already been made and that it might appear unexpected, though everybody knew the man Yeltsin had chosen. With his statement Mr. Filatov further intrigued journalists who were trying to guess who would become the number one man in Lubyanka. The most frequently mentioned candidates were the following: Mikhail Barsukov (chief of the Russian Federation Main Security Directorate), Aleksey Ilyushenko (head of the Russian Federation Administration's Oversight Directorate), Nikolay Golushko (acting Russian Federation security minister), Viktor Ivanenko (former head of the Russian Federation Federal Security Agency), Galina Starovoytova (a Russian Federation people's deputy), Aleksandr Starovoytov (general director of the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information), Sergey Stepashin (chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security), Yevgeniy Savostyanov (head of the Russian Federation Security Ministry's Moscow City and Oblast Directorate), and Yuriy Luzhkov (mayor of Moscow).

What Sergey Filatov told the news people probably referred most to Barsukov, Ilyushenko, Starovoytov, and Luzhkov who, apart from other things, cannot be suspected of being unsympathetic toward the president. The latter, as is known, made no secret of the fact that he needed a person sharing his views in the responsible post of head of state security. It is quite likely that a presidential edict had been prepared with a view to one of the above mentioned people, which was never signed. Why?

Possibly, Boris Yeltsin did not like it that some of the smarter journalists somehow managed to find out and make public the name of his choice (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's favorite in the race of likely candidates, for

example, was Aleksandr Starovoytov, whose brief biographical profile was published in the paper), and at the last moment he changed his decision. It is not ruled out, however, that the president, on recommendation from his advisers, deliberately played for time and, with the help of extravagant leaks of information (like the "Luzhkov" version), set journalists on the wrong track—so as in the end to finally surprise everyone with his decision to appoint a professional as security minister. True, it needs to be noted that immediately after Viktor Barannikov's resignation, many officers in the Lubyanka central apparatus highly assessed the chances of the former first deputy minister. In the security officers' rating he ranked third. Later on, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA found out that Boris Yeltsin immediately offered the new post to Nikolay Golushko. The latter, however, asked for some time to think and did not say yes until the danger of an "outsider" coming to Lubyanka had become quite real.

So, Boris Yeltsin has made his choice. It is now up to parliament, which, as is known, approves (or does not approve) the heads of the so-called power ministries—security, defense, internal, and foreign affairs.

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Vice President's Powers

PM2109100993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

["Edict of the Russian Federation President 'On the Execution of Specific Powers of the Russian Federation President by the Russian Federation Vice President'; signed by President Yeltsin and dated 18 September]

[Text] In line with sections four and five of Article 121.7 and with Article 121.8 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I decree:

That it be established that the instructions to the Russian Federation vice president on the execution by him of specific powers of the Russian Federation president be formalized by edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president.

That the decision for the Russian Federation president to be replaced by the Russian Federation vice president during his absence be formalized by an edict of the Russian Federation president.

That the execution of specific powers of the Russian Federation president by the Russian Federation vice president outside the established procedure constitutes appropriation of the powers of the Russian Federation president and is both illegal and invalid under Article 121.3 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 18 September 1993, No. 1398

Shumeyko To Return to Duty in 'Next Few Days'

LD2009130493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118
GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko is planning to resume his duties within the next few days. On Monday [20 September], after testifying at the Investigation Department of the General Prosecutor's Office, he told INTERFAX that he had given answers to all questions.

"As no charges were brought against me, the possibility of my return to office is being considered," he said. He also announced that the General Prosecutor's Office was expected to draft a corresponding document this week.

Shumeyko said that he would not lodge any suits against the General Prosecutor's Office. "Perhaps, I will lodge a suit against Deputy General Prosecutor Nikolay Makarov - not as a prosecutor, but as an individual neglecting the law," he added.

I am convinced, he said, that the investigators' work was not politically motivated. He noted, however, that as a people's deputy, Valentin Stepankov might have been influenced by the parliament speaker.

He positively assessed the return of Yegor Gaydar to the government. He also noted that the Cabinet had always worked in a businesslike and creative atmosphere, although the media portrayed disagreements between the Cabinet members.

He also expressed the opinion that Gaydar's arrival would help stabilize the financial situation.

Ryabov, Yeltsin To Discuss Date for Constitutional Session

MK2109070793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report in "In Brief" column: "Ryabov To Meet the President"]

[Text] As Nikolay Ryabov stated yesterday, this week he is to meet with the president. In the course of the meeting it is to be decided when to hold a session of the Constitutional Commission, which is to adopt a resolution on creating a special united working group to elaborate a coordinated new draft Russian constitution.

Yeltsin Issues Edict on Privatizing Media

PM2109093993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 93 First Edition p 6

[Russian Federation president's edict No. 1360 "On the Procedure for Issuing Shares in State Enterprises Servicing Television and Radio Broadcasting," signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 7 September 1993; edict is followed by a list of such enterprises]

[Text] With a view to creating guarantees of the activity of television and radio broadcasting enterprises and eradicating monopolism in their support by enterprises servicing television and radio broadcasting, I decree:

1. Point 5 of the Russian Federation president's edict No. 421 of 2 April 1993 "On Guarantees of Information Stability in the Activity of the 'Ostankino' Russian State Television and Radio Company, Point 3.6 and Paragraphs 8 and 11 of Point 5.5 of the Statute on "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Company, which was approved by this edict, and supplement No. 2 to the Russian Federation Government decree No. 300 of 7 May 1992 "On Ensuring the Activity of 'Ostankino' Russian State Television and Radio Company" are deemed to be null and void.

2. The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property is to transform the state enterprises servicing television and radio broadcasting named in the supplement into joint-stock companies with subsequent privatization in the prescribed manner before 1 November 1993.

When commissions for privatizing the said enterprises are being formed, provision is to be made for the mandatory inclusion in them of representatives of state and municipal television and radio broadcasting enterprises (television and radio companies).

Social and cultural facilities and other facilities serving workers (except housing stock facilities and facilities not subject to privatization) on the balance sheet of the enterprises being transformed are to be included in the incorporation capital of the joint-stock companies being formed, and must without fail continue to be used for their original purpose.

3. It is prescribed that not less than 51 percent of voting shares in the joint-stock companies formed on the basis of state enterprises servicing television and radio broadcasting are to be held in federal ownership for three years in the prescribed manner.

4. When carrying out the privatization of enterprises servicing television and radio broadcasting the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property is to:

provide for, by agreement with the Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Supporting New Economic Structures, the inclusion in the statutes of the joint-stock companies being formed of norms preventing abuse of their dominant position;

ensure for the period specified in Point 3 that not less than 51 percent of the membership of the boards of directors of the joint-stock companies being formed is composed of representatives of state and municipal television and radio companies in proportion to the volumes of goods (works, services) consumed by the latter and sold by these joint-stock companies.

5. Television and radio companies whose representatives are included on the boards of directors of the joint-stock companies being formed are instructed to form a consultative organ allowing the participation of other television and radio broadcasting enterprises which are consumers of goods (works, services) sold by these joint-stock companies in order to interlink their interests.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 7 September 1993

The following facilities are named in an appendix to the Russian Federation president's decree listing state enterprises servicing television and radio broadcasting that are to be transformed into joint-stock companies: The Television Technical Center, the State House of Radio Broadcasting and Recording, the All-Russia Technological Center, the Television and Radio Apparatus Experimental Plant, Volgograd City Experimental Plant, the All-Russia Television and Radio Research Institute Experimental Production Facility, the "Soyuztelemfilm" Creative and Production Association, the Main Information Computing Center, Soyuzteleradioservis, the Specialized Motor Transport Enterprise, the Construction and Repair Administration, the Television Technical Center Construction and Repair Section, Typography, the "Pyatnitskiy" Food Combine, the Television Technical Center Food Combine, the "Sovteleeksport" Foreign Trading Association, and the Production-Economic Association.

Further Report on Yeltsin Meeting With Writers

PM2009144193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 1

[Valeriy Petrov report: "What Boris Nikolayevich Whispered to the Muse"]

[Text] Here is an irony of fate: Boris Yeltsin's meeting with writers took place 14 September in the former KGB residence on Vargi Street. The same place where Kryuchkov and Co. gathered for a final confab before the 19 August coup. As was the case two years previously, the conversation turned on the country's future.

The circle of invitees (Yuriy Karyakin, Anatoliy Pristavkin, Lev Razgon, Rimma Kazakova, Andrey Dementyev, Robert Rozhdestvenskiy, and others) was not difficult to organize: At the beginning of August these writers wrote an open letter to society demanding that parliamentary elections be held without delay—in the fall. Journalists were not invited to the residence, but some details have emerged.

The main thing, of course, is the time set by the president for holding the election: Sunday, 28 November this year. Unless Boris Nikolayevich changes his intentions, his announcement dissolving parliament should follow within the next 10 days. Although it cannot be ruled out that, by imparting his strategic plans to an audience that loves to talk, the president hopes to evoke a premature reaction from the opposition and then act according to circumstances.

Regarding the vacant post of security minister, the president gave nothing away. He said only that the issue has been resolved and the country will find out who the new minister is by Saturday.

The meeting was unhurried, taking in discussions and lunch lasting more than five hours. How pleasant—the writers gave their advice and the president listened, occasionally engaging in polemic. Thus, for example, Boris

Nikolayevich announced that he knew his Chekhov far better than many of the writers did—in the heat of the argument, it seems...

In the guests' opinion, the president looked well: Tanned, cheerful, and attentive. He allowed himself a tippie with the roast suckling pig—but no more.

One last detail. Bulat Okudzhava, hurrying to the house on Vargi Street from his dacha, did not make it to the meeting: The road was closed owing to the Michael Jackson show and the poet got stuck in a traffic jam.

Stankevich Cited on Yeltsin, Union's Breakup

PM2009121193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 93 p 3

[Mikhail Briman report: "Adviser Voices Doubts and...Regrets"]

[Text] In an interview with the YEVRZIA newspaper (Krasnoyarsk), speaking about the third wave of "democrats" which is replacing the first (Gorbachev's) and the second (today's democrats), Russian Federation presidential adviser Sergey Stankevich made, among others, the following remarks about his boss: "He was one of the key figures in the Gorbachev cohort of reforming Communists, but at the same time he was able to become leader of the second wave by sensing the tasks it faced and reinventing himself, having understood the inadequacy of Gorbachev's perestroika program. And now the question is whether Yeltsin can make the transition from the second to the third wave. This is very important. And the same issue applies to many other second-wave reformers. Can they understand this? As far as I can observe, many of them have unfortunately not progressed beyond the stage of struggling against communism, the stage of anticommunism."

In reply to a question about the breakup of the USSR, the adviser said that in his heart he feels that the Union "has not actually broken up," he still perceives it as an integral unit, and that for him the breakup of the USSR was a stronger emotional experience than it was for many of his contemporaries. At the same time he added: "I cannot stop tormenting myself, wondering whether we did everything we could to prevent the breakup of the Union and find some sort of coexistence formula within the framework of a unitary state that would have suited everybody."

Trial of Coup Leaders To Resume 21 Sep

LD2009135293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119
GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Russian Supreme Court's Military Tribunal has told INTERFAX that the trial of the August abortive coup leaders will resume on Tuesday [21 September].

The court recessed because Aleksey Shmyrev, the lawyer of the defendant Oleg Baklanov, felt unwell. The spokesman said that Shmyrev had recovered and was ready to continue work.

He explained that in keeping with the law, at the next stage of the trial its participants would be allowed to request expert assistance, witnesses' testimony, further investigation of the case or the suspension of the indictment.

The trial resumes at 10:00.

Democrats' 'Directives' to Yeltsin Assessed

PM2009114593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 1

[Viktor Trushkov article: "Strictly According to Directive"]

[Text] This summer Boris Nikolayevich did not have his usual vacation. He was called back. By "Democratic Russia." It is not known what conversations were conducted with the president far from the public gaze or by whom. But soon a peal of thunder rolled over Russia: "This struggle and the decisive battle will begin in September. August must be used for the artillery preparation."

All the guns roared out during that barrage. But when the smoke cleared in mid-September the generals of the "democratic" front were uncertain: Either the shells were blanks or the targets were illusory. But they were particularly confused by the absence of the white horse bearing the triumphant and intransigent rider in presidential armor on the hill.

The council of authorized representatives of the "Democratic Choice" bloc (a subsidiary organization of "Democratic Russia") adopted an open letter to B. Yeltsin. In the letter the authors dictated their terms to the president, just as they did when calling him back from his vacation: "The executive is showing impermissible sluggishness... There must be an immediate resumption of the Constitutional Conference whose historic duty... is to prepare a provisional constitutional act for the transitional period and a draft law on elections..."

It is clear that such a document could be prepared only by someone well acquainted with the apparatus style. Furthermore, the authors took into account the addressee's tendencies and thus avoided issuing threats: "Further delay (no, not with insurrection yet—V.T.) with the convening of the Constitutional Conference... could cost all too high a price (here the authors toned it down because the original text used the words "could prove fatal"—V.T.) not just to the democratic forces supporting the executive but also ultimately to that branch of power itself."

The public does not know what possible direct instructions to the president might be contained in the decree section of the directive. But by all accounts operations are planned in three areas. First—to oust those who think even slightly differently (so as to please A. Chubays the president has rescinded his instruction to change the procedure for privatization prepared on the basis of Vice Premier O. Lobov's proposals). Second—to demonstrate that the "democrats" have a ready replacement for B. Yeltsin (a democratic assault force driving foreign cars and headed by G. Popov arrived in Podolsk the other day and began campaigning—while the president is still alive!—for the

election of G. Yavlinskiy to this post). And third—to achieve its aims by pressuring Yeltsin.

Now let us compare Boris Nikolayevich's position at the session of the Presidential Council with the "Democratic Choice" directive. He stressed that in the immediate future there will be not only the creation of the Federation Council but also a plenary session of the Constitutional Conference as well as a joint session between its participants and the members of the Constitutional Commission.

"Democratic Choice" devised the operation and the directives have been issued. Is it really impossible to change the venue of the meeting?

Burbulis on Centrist Groups, 'Accord for Fatherland'

MK2109095193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLET in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1

[O.B.S. report in "Non-Stop" column: "Burbulis Meditates...."]

[Text] President Yeltsin's retired associate Gennadiy Burbulis has commented on a coalition of third rate political stars—the "Accord for the Fatherland," created recently by former Security Council Secretary Yuriy Skokov.

According to Mr. B., the recently spawned groups passing themselves off as "centrists" represent a "very useful trend. I know that things are not really like that.... But the more they vie with each other in their claims to being centrists, the more perseveringly they will be thinking about what really makes up the political center and to what extent it is linked with the interests of the majority of the electorate—so much the better." In this perverted way centrism should win popular support.

As for Skokov's group, according to Gennadiy Eduardovich, "...so far it has no identity of its own, with the exception of very correct, absolutely incontrovertible calls for consensus. It would be better and even more useful if this organization stated with whom it is going to reach consensus and unity and in the name of what."

As for Burbulis himself, apart from his own "Strategy" Political Science Center and Constructive Liberalism Party, which has been proclaimed but so far is only in the planning stage, he is dreaming about acquiring yet another roof—the so-called "Doveriye" [Trust] Committee for Public Collaboration. The motives for this formation are so vague, just like everything around Mr. B., that one is only left to guess at its designs.

Divisions Within Communist Movement Detailed

MK2109111493 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 55, 21 Sep 93 (signed to press 20 Sep) p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report under "Communists" rubric: "The Party Leadership May Not Be Reproached." Criticism Within the Framework of 'Democratic Centralism'"]

[Text] A plenary session of the Russian Federation Communist Party [RFCP] Central Executive Committee [CEC], which took place 18 September in Moscow, was called upon to finally work out if not a coherent program,

then at least a single position of "Russia's most numerous party" on current problems faced by the country and the communist movement—especially since an outside observer is bound to take this movement for Brownian motion.

Several competing communist parties, having proclaimed themselves successors to the RSFSR CP, are fighting for the property of their regal predecessor as well as for the support of several million Russians who have preserved their party membership cards not just as a souvenir. One result of this fighting is regular public squabbling among the leaders (true, so far without face to face encounters), the creation of two different drafts of a "socialist constitution," and, consequently, complete chaos in the minds of "rank-and-file communists" who do not see any difference between the rivals.

With their characteristic scientific approach, the Marxist rivals "at the helm" are painstakingly trying to find ideological differences with their "enemies/fellow thinkers." The Russian Communist Workers Party under Anpilov blames Zyuganov's RFCP for "a conciliatory policy and a retreat from ideals." Indeed, the latter has allowed itself such "anti-Marxist" liberties as the recognition of "the possible existence of private ownership." Recently, the RFCP has moved even further—the party has proclaimed as its main ally the "patriotic forces" and, in particular, "entrepreneurs/patriots." Precisely such passages are contained in the CEC's letter to communists.

The "new trends" have led not only to renewed aggravation in the relationship with the Russian Communist Party but also to internal disagreements. Many leaders of RFCP regional divisions tend to regard the communist movement as unitary, especially since in the provinces it really is so. They explain disarray and wavering in Moscow as the "intrigues of the democrats."

Apparently, the democrats are forcing Mr. Zyuganov to look for a closer union with his allies in the National Salvation Front, even in spite of increasing statements by anti-communist members within the Front who are talking about the impossibility of such a unification. The RFCP leadership has to meander, at the same time seeking to create a "national patriotic image" for its party and restrain internal discontent. A number of CEC members have spoken against teaming up with the "patriots" while others described them as "temporary allies" and called on the communists to prepare for a struggle with them "after Yeltsin's collapse."

The presidium's point of view gained the upper hand, especially given that the malcontents turned out to be weak and disorganized. Having criticized the presidium a little and instructing it "not to forget Lenin," the "opposition" nonetheless agreed that "Zyuganov must not be blamed" and should be made a "national leader."

Although it was decided not to discuss the presidium's letter until the end of fall, this document can be regarded as almost official guidance for action to party members.

Yet the conflict has not been exhausted to the end. The presidium met the advocates of unification of all communists half way and appointed representatives to coordinate the draft constitution prepared by the Russian Communist Workers Party (Slobodkin's draft) and the draft created by the RFCP itself. This, however, is not a very big shift since the party's official position is to support the existing Fundamental Law. The same refers to early elections—the presidium insists that the Supreme Soviet "sit through its term to the end," but a number of regional organizations continue to prepare for simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections. The official position is that the president's post should be abolished. The Kamchatka communists, who, according to their representative Mr. Mashkovtsev, advocate "democratic centralism," will have to violate its laws. They definitely do not want to abandon the idea of elections. For its part, the center is ready to contest them only if they are inevitable.

Serious problems are related to the impossibility of unifying the communists' attitude to the idea of restoring the USSR.

To be sure, everyone agrees that the restoration of the Union is one of the party's main tasks. The differences consist in the methodology of this restoration.

The majority lean to the idea that the RFCP should become the basis for a new CPSU, which in its turn should be the "pivot of the USSR." The minority insists that the RFCP must affiliate with the Union of Communist Parties (UCP—CPSU). The CEC plenary session rejected this, determined to continue consultations within the UCP framework but preserving its organizational independence. In the meantime it was decided to start collecting signatures in support of restoring the Union.

In spite of all the disagreements, the CEC has adopted a resolution fully reflecting the presidium's position—and it adopted it unanimously. Tradition is tradition.

Yeltsin Leads in Poll of Leading Politicians

LD2009185993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin still has the highest rating among a hundred leading Russian politicians, according to the results of an expert opinion poll conducted last August by a service for the study of public opinion led by Professor Grushin.

Follow the results of the poll (with the highest possible rating of 10 points):

1. Yeltsin—8.72;
2. Ruslan Khasbulatov, parliament speaker—8.16;
3. Viktor Chernomyrdin, prime minister—7.62;
4. Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice-president—7.22;
5. Yuriy Luzhkov, mayor of Moscow—6.72.

It took Luzhkov only a month to rise from the 10th place to the fifth.

The poll is conducted every month.

Military & Space Issues

Defense, Finance Ministries Debate Military Funding

Kokoshin Lobbies Chernomyrdin, Fedorov

PM2009123393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16
Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Viktor Litovkin report under general headline: "The Defense Ministry Is Fighting the Finance Ministry for Wages for 40 Million People, But the Finance Ministry Is Holding Out to the Death"]

[Text] In recent days Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy minister of defense, has had two meetings with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov. Although the press was not admitted to these meetings, IZVESTIYA's correspondent has learned that the funding of the military order for 1993 was discussed in the government.

The situation in the defense sectors of industry is, to put it without diplomatic politesse, calamitous. As of 1 September, the government's debts to the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Atomic Energy, and other departments, including the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with regard to payment for military hardware, the payment of servicemen's pay, and the construction of housing for them stood at 1.7 trillion rubles. Because of this, 40 million working people in the defense complex do not receive money even for wages.

Social protests are growing in the closed cities of Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-45, Krasnoyarsk-70, and others where nuclear munitions are serviced and missiles, guns, tanks, and ships are made, and they could prove stronger than the miners' protests.

The reasons lie not only in the delays over allocating money for wages—the planned indexation of spending on the defense order is lagging severely behind the actual cost of military output. During the period 1 January through 1 August the price of a T-72 tank increased by a factor of 12.6, that of a BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle by a factor of 22, and that of an Su-24M bomber by a factor of 12, while the state estimates their cost according to old valuations.

In addition, the wages of working people in the defense complex are only half the average in machine building. This means that the most skilled engineers, technicians, and workers will quit the weapons business and, since there is no other work in closed cities, the government will have to compensate for their idleness to a far greater extent than is necessary today for the gradual switch to a conversion footing.

I was told at the Ministry of Defense that they well understand the concern of the government and the Ministry of Finance for curbing the inflationary process and keeping the budget deficit at the minimum level, but the defense order was approved by all organs of power at the highest permissible level, there is no possibility of reducing

it further without harming the country's defense capability, and the problems of the budget deficit should not be resolved at the expense of the most skilled section of working people.

Incidentally, I have learned that the Russian president instructed the government to find funds to finance the army and the defense complex. But the money received by the military is too little and does not solve the problem.

The army is still being left without funds to construct housing for the families being brought back from abroad, and the defense industry is without money for wages.

Official Defends Finance Ministry

PM2009103993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16
Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Irina Demchenko report under general headline: "Defense Ministry Fighting Finance Ministry for Wages for 40 Million People, But Finance Ministry Holding Out to the Death"]

[Text] The Defense Complex Department of the Ministry of Finance has confirmed that the problem of funding the army and the defense complex really is very serious: The government's debts to these sectors are large. They cannot be cleared overnight. At the same time Vladimir Grudnov, the department's first deputy leader, has questioned the bills which the power ministries are presenting to the government.

According to Grudnov, the Ministry of Defense is guided in its transactions by the "parliamentary" version of the state budget, which the Russian president has vetoed. I will remind you that the president proposed that the government be guided by the figures in his own budget message, which reduced military spending, in particular, by 15 percent compared with the parliamentary version. At the same time—as the Ministry of Finance amplified—the president ordered the priority nature of funding for the power structures over other sectors of the national economy.

According to Grudnov, the government's debts to the Defense Ministry today stand at 92 billion rubles [R] for arms and military hardware and R130 billion with regard to payment for scientific and technical output. The debts are continuing to be cleared. As for debts with regard to payment of servicemen's pay, accounts have virtually been settled.

The low earnings at enterprises in defense sectors are a special problem. They really are practically half the average for machine building. The main reason is that almost twice as many people as are needed to fulfill the present state defense orders work in the sector's enterprises. Those who have the burden of fulfilling these orders are virtually maintaining their out-of-work colleagues. This is so-called hidden unemployment, the problem of combating which is being resolved with particular difficulty in the closed cities. It is also hardly fair to other highly skilled workers employed in these and other sectors to insist on these grounds that the state should pay out of the budget for idle time as highly skilled labor.

The Finance Ministry representative refused altogether to discuss the possibility of indexing the prices of defense output. The cost of raw materials and subassemblies is growing, but the finished output is bought by the state at the old prices, because "in its transactions with producers the Finance Ministry can be guided only by the budget, which does not provide for indexation." Evidently, next year enterprises in defense sectors will no longer particularly strive for the state order, which has become unprofitable because the government has been unable to find the correct behavioral model under conditions of high inflation.

Government Proposes Changes in Draft Deferments

PM2009102393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "Government Sounds Alarm: No One To Draft Into the Army"]

[Text] Today the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet intends to consider a Russian Federation Government appeal, signed by Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, in connection with the critical Armed Forces recruitment situation. The attached figures indicate that the army is experiencing a shortfall of 746,000 servicemen under the terms of the draft, and other military formations are lacking 142,000, which in total constitutes 49 percent of the available draft resources in the country (1,814,000 men). This year 388,000 young people (21.4 percent) are liable to be drafted for military service; the rest, 1,426,000 (78.6 percent), cannot be drafted for legal reasons—aside from any other legal acts, they are granted a deferment by Article 21 of the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service."

The government is proposing amendments to Article 21 of the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service," which would cancel the deferment for students of vocational and technical schools and technical colleges. Students at higher educational establishments are not affected at the moment. The implementation of this proposal will make it possible to draft an extra 400,000-450,000 people per year. This will increase the manpower of the Armed Forces and other forces by 15-20 percent by the end of 1994.

The parliamentary Defense and Security Committee examined this appeal Wednesday. In their findings the parliamentarians stress that they share the government's concern, although they propose instead of a law the adoption of a parliamentary decree "On the procedure for applying point 'b' of part 2 of Article 21 of the Russian Federation Law 'On Military Service Obligation and Military Service'," which will clearly indicate the period of suspension of the point of the law—from 1 October 1993 through 31 December 1994.

If the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet accepts its committee's proposal (and the government's proposal) today, then young people "studying for the first time in

primary and secondary vocational education establishments" will be receiving word from the military commissariat very soon.

'Buran' Program Continues Despite Financial Woes

LD1709112193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The multi-purpose aero-space system, now developed at the "Molnia" scientific-production society, will succeed the "Buran" shuttle. It is expected to be displayed at a show in Germany next May. The participation in this major display of the "Molnia" society, which is now experiencing serious financial difficulties, will give it a chance to earn money for a full-size model of the multi-purpose aero-space system, which will be a major step forward in its development. ITAR-TASS was told by Director-General and Chief Designer of the "Molnia" Society Gleb Lozino-Lozinskiy.

The "Buran" project may be mothballed in light of current financial difficulties, the specialist stressed. The "Molnia" leadership believes this would be a short-sighted step and does not want to keep mum about it, "because," Lozino-Lozinskiy said, "only Buran's successor, that is a multi-purpose aero-space system, is able to cope with the tasks now confronting space explorers". According to his calculations, further space research, from the point of view of economy, can now be effective only if the price of orbiting one kilogram of payload will be reduced by 87.5-90 percent (today it equals to about 10,000 U.S. dollars). This end can be achieved only by means of a multi-purpose aero-space system, the specialist claims. He added that this system could also be used to carry supplies to orbital systems and to conduct scientific studies.

In light of the current economic crisis, the "Molnia" society is compelled to seek foreign partners, although it realizes that it will have to share with them its property rights to the new system. Therefore, the financial participation of Russian investors in this project is more attractive for Russian experts. Lozino-Lozinskiy said that there was a real chance that the multi-purpose aero-space system would be supported by the Aviation Bank (Aviabank), which has decided to take part in financing fundamental scientific research.

New Satellite Communications System Being Developed

LD2009223893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS free-lance correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Serial production of the An-74 light transport aircraft is to start in Russia in the near future. This twin-engine jet propelled vehicle is to replace the An-26 currently being used by Aeroflot, and is to join polar aviation, Vasily Gorlov, representative of the Polet aerospace association, told the correspondent.

Also, specialists from the Polet aerospace association are now developing a global low-orbit satellite communications system to be made up of 32-45 space vehicles to exchange information between users in any part of the world.

Economic Issues

Fedorov Fails To Attend Meeting on Labor Relations

LD1709150393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 93

[By correspondent Vladimir Perfiliyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the Russian Tripartite Commission for Settling the Socio-Labor Relations, which was planned to be held in Moscow today, did not take place. For 15 minutes, representatives of the government, entrepreneurs, and trade unions waited for Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov, the finance minister, who was instructed by the head of the government to conduct the session. But, without explaining the reasons, the country's chief financier did not appear in the commission.

Entrepreneurs and trade union officials decided it was senseless to hold a discussion on the issues of mutual settlements between enterprises, wages, pensions, and benefits in the absence of Boris Fedorov. We are pushed toward collective actions and strikes, that is how Igor Klochkov, the chairman of the Federation of Russia's Independent Trade Unions, commented on what had happened.

[Klochkov] These nonpayments have reached 13 trillion rubles. This is comparable to the state's annual budget. We were counting that in the presence of top people—we agreed that Fedorov, the deputy prime minister and finance minister, as he and the Central Bank are holding the keys to the credit and finance settlements—today at the session of the Tripartite Commission, the entrepreneurial, trade union, and government sides...[pauses] A system of selective credits is needed, as well as an increase in the financial liability of banks for not transferring payments. A regulation of foreign economic activities is needed for those who can supply goods. But, unfortunately, Fedorov did not arrive.

Fedorov Interviewed on Budget, Taxes

LD1909212793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Interview with Finance Minister Boris Fedorov by Yevgeniy Kiselev in the "Itogi" studio; date not given; from the "Itogi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] We have in the studio Boris Fedorov, deputy prime minister and finance minister of the Russian Government. Boris Grigoriyevich, an alarming trend has now appeared of non-payment of taxes to the federal budget by the regions. What is more, many regions are openly stating: We are not going to pay taxes. Tell me, what do you intend to do about this?

[Fedorov] Well, this trend is probably the most dangerous and, essentially, the most important phenomenon that exists in the country at the moment, though perhaps not much attention is being paid to it. It is even more important than the conflict between the branches of power, because the state is—basically—finances, money, and the budget. As soon as the budget collapses, the state no longer exists. We well recall the case of the Soviet Union, the collapse of which essentially began with the collapse of the budget.

[Kiselev] According to the Constitution, the government must, is simply obliged, to implement the budget set by the Supreme Soviet. But if one looks at things realistically, if one were to begin to implement it, namely the actual budget endorsed by our Supreme Soviet, the economy would collapse. You wouldn't argue with that would you?

[Fedorov] No, I wouldn't. I shall now proceed to prove it.

[Kiselev] But if the budget is not implemented, then the Supreme Soviet can dismiss the government on completely legal grounds. How are you going to extricate yourselves from this paradoxical situation?

[Fedorov] Only through the joint action of all branches of power to reduce spending and increase revenue. There simply isn't any other way. As I recently noted at the Supreme Soviet, Khasbulatov himself used to write this in his own books, before he got involved in politics. There is no other way except to reduce spending and increase revenue. We have proposed such measures and will be suggesting them to the Supreme Soviet.

[Kiselev] But what if the Supreme Soviet continues saying no, no, and no again?

[Fedorov] The situation is critical because if such a budget is passed, then the policy of financial stabilization will be totally destroyed. Personally, it seems to me that it is impossible to try to meet that budget and I am not going to do it.

[Kiselev] A series of sensational articles appeared in IZVESTIYA last week alleging that if one compares the figures for the total volume of money emissions between 1961 and 1992 with the total volume of bank notes removed from circulation just recently as a result of the latest reform, it transpires that the Central Bank found as much as three trillion rubles somewhere; that is, almost 50 percent of the cash in circulation. One comes to the conclusion that there was some kind of unofficial kitty [chernaya kassa], a secret and unaccounted-for emission of money that was—well, one can only guess whom it was for, what it was for, and why. Do you know anything about this? Can you comment on this in any way here?

[Fedorov] Well, so far we don't have any specific information so I cannot confirm anything. Clearly this is an extremely suspicious case. I, for example, am uneasy because—since Goznak [the state mint] belongs to the Ministry of Finance and for quite a long time now I have been concerned over the issue of just how much money there is in the country—I issued an order to the effect that all applications for the minting of money should be passed

through the Ministry of Finance and not directly through Goznak. Well, I was extremely surprised that no sooner had we issued this order than the Central Bank sent it to the Procuracy and appealed against it. Personally speaking, this looks suspicious to me. I do not wish to make any claims today, but I think that in everyone's interest, both the government and the Central Bank, this situation should be clarified as far as possible so that no gray areas remain.

[Kiselev] Boris Grigoriyevich, let me thank you for your interview. In the studio we have had Boris Fedorov, minister of finance of the Russian Federation and deputy prime minister of the government.

Fedorov Views Financial Stabilization

PM2009124593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Finances" rubric: "Budget War in Progress"]

[Text] According to POSTFACTUM, Finance Minister Boris Fedorov has submitted to the government a Council of Ministers draft statement containing extremely severe measures to achieve financial stabilization.

In the finance minister's words, Viktor Chernomyrdin has confirmed his support for the program. The document presented to the government for discussion notes in particular that the organs of state power of a number of republics and oblasts have decided not to comply with the laws with regard to the division of tax revenue among budgets at various levels. Unfortunately, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, instead of standing guard over the law, is itself encouraging the regions to take such steps. These actions are leading to a fall in revenue to the Russian republic budget and mean that it is impossible to fund state spending on defense, social programs, and economic development. A real basis is being created for the collapse of the financial system and the state itself.

In these conditions the Council of Ministers intends adopting resolute measures with regard to those regions that do not pay their debt to the Russian Federation republic budget in September. In particular: 1) the financing of all federal spending on the territories in question will be suspended; 2) the completion of customs formalities for all foreign trade freight from those territories will be terminated and all previously issued regional quotas and licenses for the export of strategic raw materials will be revoked; 3) the issue of centralized credits to those territories will be halted and the centralized funding of purchases of foodstuffs for regional funds will be suspended; 4) cash support for banking institutions on those territories will be terminated.

According to the finance minister's statement, "the corrupting factor was provided by the example of the authorities in Bashkortostan, Tatarstan, Yakutia, and Chechnya, which unilaterally stopped paying taxes to the republic budget." It is in regard to these sovereign entities in

particular, in the minister's opinion, that the measures mentioned in the draft statement must be "immediately and firmly implemented."

Will the government resort to these steps? That will become clear in the near future. On Friday Viktor Chernomyrdin is due to address parliament on the course of the economic reforms. Most likely the government will try to find support among deputies in the budget war with the regions.

Fedorov, Bunich Differ on Prospects for Ruble-Dollar Rate

PM2109085393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Anatolii Diordiyenko: "Will Boris Fedorov Offer Pavel Bunich a Bet?"]

[Text] It appears that Vice Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov is prepared to place a new bet after winning the last one. You will remember that in mid-July he said he was prepared to bet 50,000 rubles [R] that the ruble rate as it was then against the dollar would not change before 1 September. Boris Sabanti, professor at the St. Petersburg University of Economics and Finance, not only took up the challenge, but suggested that the stake be doubled, saying that the dollar would be worth R1,500 by September. As is well known, the professor lost the bet, and the vice premier suggested he donate R100,000 to charity.

But the other day Boris Fedorov made another statement. In an interview for the weekly VOSTOCHNYY EKSPRESS [Orient Express] he claims that the present ruble rate will remain until the end of the year as long as there is no breakdown in economic policy.

This time the finance minister found an opponent in Pavel Bunich, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He reckons that the dollar rate against the ruble will start to rise very soon. He bases his claim on the fact that the Russian Central Bank is pouring around \$50 million onto the auction floor daily, which is one-half of all the hard currency on offer. The Central Bank has approximately \$1.5 billion for this purpose, "so the agony could continue for another 2-3 months."

When they decide to combat inflation, they automatically try to curb incomes and they free prices. So until recently there was no spare money to buy up dollars. But the situation is now changing, P. Bunich believes. Spare money is appearing and this, along with other factors, is bound to lead to a rise in the dollar rate.

Well, the sides' positions are clear, so Boris Fedorov may be challenging a new opponent. The stake has yet to be named.

Chernomyrdin Discusses Economy With Deputies

PM2009130393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Tsukanova and Vladimir Khrustov: "Government-Deputies: Dialogue Takes Place"]

[Text] A working meeting between government members and Russian people's deputies took place in Staraya Square yesterday. The main theme of the discussion was the economic situation in the country and the Council of Ministers working program to stabilize the economy.

The executive and legislative branches must work together, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said, opening the meeting. The purpose of our meeting today is to eliminate the problems due to misunderstanding, because we are all committed to improving the situation. Viktor Chernomyrdin then dwelt on the current state of the Russian economy, noting that the complex economic situation is currently affected, unfortunately, by the "malignant tumor" of dyarchy.

But, the prime minister noted, the economy is not in a state of collapse. The decline in production over recent months is continuing, but it has abated. Russia can expect to harvest 110-112 million tonnes of grain this year.

But the government's main task today, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, is to achieve financial stability. Unfortunately, certain decisions by the executive as well as the legislative branches have contributed to the disruption of the financial system, Viktor Chernomyrdin noted. But the course of financial stabilization is already bearing fruit. It is necessary to stick to a clear-cut credit and financial policy.

The prime minister then dealt briefly with medium-term tasks (through 1996). In particular, they envisage the stabilization of a general rise in production and the creation of prerequisites for economic expansion, a reduction in the level of inflation and the establishment of financial stability, the implementation of the privatization program, the development of the restructuring of the economy, and an active social policy.

The Russian prime minister dwelt on the problem of organizing links with countries in nearby foreign parts. He noted the need to restore old economic links on new economic terms, stressing the important role of a new type of ruble zone.

To have a dialogue between the executive and legislative branches, Viktor Chernomyrdin said in conclusion, both sides have to want it.

The Council of Ministers chairman had to answer some very sharp questions from people's deputies, mainly concerning the government's current economic policy and the situation in individual regions and sectors of the national economy. Explaining the government's position on specific questions, Viktor Chernomyrdin paid special attention to the "horrific damage" that is being done to the economy by the confrontation between the branches of power and the antagonism that nearly every step by the government meets with in parliament. The prime minister urged people's deputies to engage in constructive cooperation and expressed the government's willingness to accept any viable proposal by people's deputies, and to work together. "Together we will see it through!" Viktor Chernomyrdin said. Judging by the audience's reaction, the call

was heeded. The deputies asked the premier to meet more often, particularly with those who do not work in the Supreme Soviet. As a deputy from Evenkia observed, then we will have a different kind of mutual understanding between government and deputies and support for the government in Congress.

Viktor Chernomyrdin announced that the government has prepared a package of documents envisaging a tightening up of the expenditure part of the budget and he asked deputies to back the Council of Ministers in this. He said he was prepared to deliver a report to the Supreme Soviet. The government has a line, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, and we will not deviate from it.

In conversation with a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, Yuriy Sergeyev, coordinator of the "Democratic Russia" faction, expressed surprise at the rumors that are going around about democratic deputies allegedly intending to present the government head with a number of demands on cabinet personnel. "Our sole aim," Yu. Sergeyev said, "is to learn more about the government's plans and the program to get out of the crisis."

As is well known, a report by the government head on measures to stabilize the economy has been placed on the agenda of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session. The parliamentarians' meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin can be seen as preparation for the upcoming discussion of very important questions of the country's economic life in the Supreme Soviet.

Chernomyrdin, Union Leader Discuss Labor Issues

PM2009135793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Golyayev report under the "Situation" rubric: "The 'Hierarchy' Is Holding Talks. The Grass Roots Are Going on Strike"]

[Text] After urgent requests and demands from the trade unions, a meeting has taken place between V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, and I. Klochkov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR). It has emerged that they discussed the most urgent questions affecting the lives of millions of Russians: The payment of wages within the deadline set by law, payment debts, the creditworthiness of enterprises, and the intensification of the fight against crime, which is assuming an ever-larger scale.

The sides agreed that social problems can and must be resolved as soon as possible and that constructive dialogue is needed on disputed questions. The government, it was stressed in the conversation, must show full respect for the opinion and demands of labor collectives.

Next week there will be a working meeting between a government delegation headed by V. Chernomyrdin and leaders of the sectoral committees of trade unions belonging to FITUR. It seems that the central issue will be

the adjustment of the general and sectoral tariff agreements concluded for this year, which for the most part are not being fulfilled. Such talks have been held before. Promises were made and fine words expressed then. Afterwards, regrettably, nothing changed. Perhaps now things are getting off the ground...

Trade Union Leader Scores Government Policy

PM1709142593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Igor Klochkov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia: "In Fall the Trade Unions Will Go All the Way"]

[Text] Recently a number of publications and the television have been persistently trying to convince Russians that the stabilization of the economy is beginning and the consumer market is being filled with goods. This reminds me of the proverb that no matter how many times you say something, that alone will not make it happen.

The reality is that in August the rate of inflation rose to 30 percent, the highest figure since the beginning of the year. In the first week of September the increase was over 6 percent. The cause of the acceleration in the rate of inflation has nothing to do with an increase in the effective demand of enterprises and the population due to the preferential growth in their incomes, as the Finance Ministry tries to maintain. The reason lies in the insane growth of prices for energy sources. The majority of enterprises cannot pay for the energy resources that they are consuming and are forced to reflect this cost in the price of their output. The reciprocal payment debt has reached 13 trillion rubles [R]. Many major enterprises, which certainly cannot be regarded as technologically backward and whose output is definitely in demand, are on the brink of stopping work. Each month over 2,500 enterprises stand idle, sending people on unpaid leave and introducing a short working day. The sharp drop in investments has led to the curtailing of construction projects and the enforced collapse and disbandment of construction organizations and their labor collectives.

It is paradoxical but true that the state itself is the largest debtor. The federal budget debt to the defense complex alone has passed R2 trillion. Of that figure R700 billion is owed for military hardware manufactured and bought for the Defense Ministry and R300 billion is owed for the implementation of the conversion program. Around R600 billion is owed for grain already supplied by rural workers in the form of state purchases, R300 billion represents nonpayment in the health care system, R500 billion is owed to the coal sector...

That is not all. The right of working people to the timely receipt of wages enshrined in law and international conventions is being crudely violated. The wage debt is rising constantly and is near to R200 billion. Wages have not been paid for months to servicemen and civilian personnel in the Armed Forces.

The Finance Ministry says: "There is no money!" But it is precisely because of the inefficiency of the financial services that the revenue section of the budget had a 30 percent shortfall in tax receipts. This is just one untapped reserve. We do not need Mr. Fedorov's talk about the macroeconomic expediency of the bankruptcy of loss-making enterprises. We should be talking about the bankruptcy of the whole credit-finance and taxation policy and of monetarist principles of economic regulation, the loss of control over the course of the reforms, and the growth of random factors.

In these conditions the logical question is this: What is in store for us in, say, three and one-half months' time and what is the government trying to achieve? The answer is hard to give because in the government itself there is no uniformity of views, instead there seem to be two tendencies there. One is the clearly expressed monetarist tendency which insists on continuing Gaydar's policy, rigid financial regulation accompanied by complete price freedom, and the restriction of credits, tax breaks, and social programs. This policy can only result in the further disintegration of the production sphere, reduced consumption, and a vast army of unemployed.

The second tendency in the government is represented by the pragmatists who understand the Russian economy's realities and characteristics, which do not fit into the framework of the advice offered by foreign consultants. The appearance of first vice premier Oleg Lobov's memorandum to the president "On the economic situation and urgent measures to ensure its stabilization" and on adjustments to the privatization program is no chance event.

I shall highlight its main features, which are hard to contest. First and foremost there is the need to change the financial system, which has now ceased to serve production and has become a brake on it. It is necessary to instill order in payment settlement relations between enterprises. In our view the state can and must intervene actively in the process of preserving and developing the production potential and of structural transformations. Taxation policy and the methods of privatization must be adjusted. It is time to establish tight state control over exporters of strategic resources.

There is another most important feature here: It is necessary to set up state guardianship during the rescue of enterprises that are close to bankruptcy and there must be a more balanced approach when determining the procedures for liquidating enterprises that have been declared bankrupt—taking into account as much as possible the social consequences and loss of jobs.

The FITUR has repeatedly stated that the priority is for measures aimed at halting the slump in production as the main factor in conquering inflation and the crisis in the economy and at forming "centers of growth" which determine the vitality of Russia and its citizens.

In so saying I want to stress that the assertions of the zealous radical reformers that there is no alternative to the present course of reforms are absolutely unfounded and groundless. The trade unions have constantly insisted on

the need to adjust the methods of implementing the reforms and on intensifying their social thrust.

The government heard us out and, while agreeing with the arguments and proposals, continued to pursue its own course, which has led to the curtailing of production, the transformation of the country into a raw materials-producing adjunct of the world market, and the impoverishment of the bulk of the population. In this context the violations of the General Agreement and a number of sectoral tariff agreements and the flagrant disregarding of the principles of social partnership are understandable and even logical. The executive is not entering into serious negotiations or seeking rational compromises and acceptable solutions. It makes promises but does not intend honoring them. The Russian tripartite commission for the regulation of social and labor relations is being used as a cover to conceal that policy.

It is already clear now that the executive will continue in the future making promises and handing out individual sops. After all, if the present course is maintained there is actually nowhere for it to obtain the finances and resources. The FITUR now faces the question: How should it continue to conduct itself in its dealings with the government? We face a choice: Either we organize mass collective actions or we accept that the trade unions are incapable of influencing radical changes in the economic and social sphere in the interests of the working man.

One can, of course, continue to hope for the achievement of accords and try to persuade, argue, and entreat. But practice shows that this is pointless when you are dealing with the present government team. We have chosen the path of struggle and all affiliated organizations have supported this.

What will the tactic of FITUR's collective actions be this year?

Five stages have been outlined for the escalation of the collective actions. On 17 September sectoral unions in the defense complex will hold a day of protest. The next date in the calendar is 27 September when the agrarians and the forestry sectors will have their say. The Coordinating Committee of the collective actions of health care workers unions has announced the opening of an all-Russia strike beginning 5 October. October 15-17 and October 29 are the next stages in the nationwide Russian actions.

It must be said that individual trade union leaders have more than once criticized the FITUR trade union center and its sectoral trade unions for a lack of determination in its calls for collective actions or for misjudging the occasion or for formulating its demands vaguely. To a certain extent this reflects a desire to divert attention to a superior trade union organ and free oneself from responsibility. On the other hand it shows confusion and a lack of firm links with people in the work place.

We do not intend stopping the struggle until we achieve real results. To the question: "What will we do next if our demands are not met?" there can be only one answer: In that case the economic demands will turn into political

ones and the expression of no-confidence in the present organs of power and individual actions will turn into a national strike.

The trade unions today can become the third force that political scientists are talking so much about but do not know where it is. It is this force that is capable of ending the confrontation between the branches of power, which is leading toward grave consequences, a head-on clash, the disintegration of the economy, and the undermining of the Russian state system itself.

FITUR Plans 'Offensive' Against Government

*PM2009150393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16
Sep 93 First Edition p 4*

[Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy report: "Trade Union Games in Defense of Working People"]

[Text] Igor Klochkov, chairman of the council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], has held a telephone conference during which he conducted a review of prestrike readiness in the provinces. This conference, to use the language of former party reports, was an important stage in implementing the "Plan of Collective Trade Union Action" drawn up by the FITUR leadership.

It has to be said that the plan itself was drawn up with a scrupulousness that really reminds you of the "good old days." The three stages of the summer and fall "offensive" against the government are written out literally day by day. Thorough organizational measures to carry out prestrike preparations have been implemented, ranging from explaining the FITUR position in rayon newspapers to forming regional and sectoral strike committees. In other words, according to the FITUR leaders' scheme, the strike network is to cover the entire country.

The "plan of collective action" allocates a special role to the middle of September. It includes both the expressively titled "intersectoral conference of solidarity and united action of trade unions in the production and budget-financed sphere" and the "general meetings-conferences of labor collectives to adopt decisions on participation in strikes." The culmination of the organizational preparation is to be the 28 September "All-Russia Meeting of Representatives of Coordinating and Strike Committees." At the same time there are to be meetings with representatives of political parties and organizations, above all centrist and left-centrist ones. Only after this, from the middle of October, will there be "phased development of the strike movement in regions and sectors" and, "at the suggestion of labor collectives of state sector enterprises working on direct state orders, suspension of the delivery of output until it has been paid for in full."

At first glance this might seem a natural, systematic struggle by the trade union federation for working people's rights. But here is another document of analogous purport—the "Appeal to All Trade Union Organizations of the Russian Mining and Metallurgical Industry Workers Union," which is one of the new independent trade unions.

It also notes the instability of the sociopolitical and economic situation in the country and lists the difficulties being experienced by the sector and by the economy as a whole. There is also an appeal to the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government, asking them to "take emergency measures to overcome the crisis."

But, on comparing the two documents, you at once notice a fundamental difference in the two approaches—the FITUR's politicized (or politicking) approach and the socioeconomic approach of the metallurgists and miners. In fact, what can you call the calls for strikes in entire sectors and regions at a time of incomplete reforms and ongoing political confrontation between the two branches of power, if not a political game? It is perfectly obvious that the purpose of such appeals and actions is to prompt the present government to resign. The intention to suspend the dispatch of output "at the suggestion of labor collectives," were it to be implemented, would naturally still further mess up the economic mechanism, only adding to the burdens of the working people about whom the FITUR is so concerned.

"They are seeking elementarily to draw people into a political struggle," Irina Ledeneva, deputy chairman of the Mining and Metallurgical Industry Workers Union, believes. "But this is not in their interests. Our trade union was a supporter of the Gaydar government, but not of the present cabinet. The situation in our sector is also complex, particularly in the Far East. But we know what a change of government is like—much had to be started afresh following the departure of Gaydar and some of his 'team.' Therefore we advocate civilized work with state structures. We are doing this quite successfully both with the Metallurgy Committee and with Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets. But the FITUR leadership prefers to 'ensure attendance' by old party methods. We already have information about 'arm twisting' against sectoral trade unions in the provinces."

Alas, associations with the party methods mentioned by Irina Ledeneva are certainly not accidental, and by no means she alone makes them with regard to the FITUR. It remains to be hoped that those who are being urged to strike will also investigate the super trade union's "party allegiance." There seems to be hope of this, if you recall the slogan that hangs in one of the shops at Novocherkassk Electrode Plant: "We do not need bread, we need work."

People really do need work now, certainly not strikes.

Soskovets Names Heads of Industrial Policy Council

MK1809102393 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Sep 93 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "Industrial Policy Council Chairman Appointed. Industrialists Given a Chance"]

[Text] There is only one step left to complete the formation of the Council for Industrial Policy, namely to agree on its lineup. Yesterday, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets issued an order appointing its chairman, Mikhail Yuryev, and his three deputies. Thus, a "representation"

of the industrial establishment at the Council of Ministers has finally taken shape, and now the council's leader, Oleg Soskovets, will have to defend industry's priority status from the "monetarist" lobby that has been revived following Yegor Gaydar's return, as well as from the traditionally strong fuel and energy and agrarian lobbies.

Mikhail Yuryev's appointment to this post raised no eyebrows. In June he became the head of a commission tasked with working out a concept for setting up financial-industrial groups in Russia. Oleg Soskovets backed his draft, and the author himself started cherishing ideas of reactivating the council, which until then remained in a state of lethargy. Obviously, while selecting top personnel for the council, Messrs. Soskovets and Yuryev tried to form a team of like-minded people that would be able to resist the already established agrarian and oil and gas lobbying blocs. Events of the past few days have brought substantial adjustments to the alignment of forces in the government.

As he admitted that Oleg Lobov's "trial balloon" to change the privatization scheme was ill-advised, the president agreed to substitute Gaydar for Lobov. This replacement raises the problem of choosing priority sectors to be financed from the budget against the backdrop of financial stabilization, which has been given a new lease on life. It is worth noting that in his platform speech in Rostov-on-Don, Gaydar tried to marry mutually exclusive objectives. According to him, holding back inflation was an indisputable priority for the economy. At the same time he thinks it necessary to introduce low interest rates and tax cuts for commodity producers. Presumably, in five or six months the struggle for subsidies between sectors that are capable of earning hard currency almost immediately (oil and gas industries) and those whose competitiveness is fairly problematic (manufacturing) will resume with new vigor.

However, the six-month timeout in increasing government expenditure in order to achieve financial stabilization, which was proposed by Gaydar, may drastically change the alignment of forces. Raw material industries will undoubtedly be happy with the results of Gaydar's activity as economy minister (or as head of a combined economy and finance ministry). He will not leave sectors having export capacities without state support. The industrialists could use this time to cast their vision of Russia's economic development in a political mold. The Industrial Policy Council could well be a prototype for a strong "industrial" party. All the more so because currently the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs—in which the position of Arkadiy Volskiy, its leader, has significantly weakened—already wields much clout in the council. Yuriy Skokov, who lays claims to a leadership role, has not been up to the expectations of the industrial establishment, either. So, lacking serious rivals, Oleg Soskovets may well rally around him domestic producers, who may demand—this time on more compelling grounds—that the privatization scheme be changed and that the flow of budget money be redistributed in their favor.

[Article includes the following boxed passage]

Top officials of the Council for Industrial Policy

Council chairman—Mikhail Yuryev, vice president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and president of the "Interprom Industrial Group" partnership.

Deputy chairmen—Nikolay Bekh, president of the "KamAZ" joint-stock company; Vladimir Velichko, president of the "Tenma" joint-stock company; Aleksandr Yerimishin, director of the Saratov Aviation Plant.

Chief secretary—Igor Alekseyev, general director of the Socioeconomic Studies Center.

Industrialists Urge Increased State Regulation of Economy

PM2009101593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "There Is a Chance of Saving National Economy"]

[Text] The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs supports the Economy Ministry's concept of increasing the state's regulatory functions. A statement adopted in connection with this says, in particular, that this initiative is "the desire of sensible forces in the government to put an end to the chaos reigning in the management of the Russian economy and to lend a constructive, creative character to the transition to the market." It can be expected, the statement goes on to say, that these Economy Ministry proposals will be attacked and that there will be laments about "betrayal of the reformers."

The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs believes that the government must react calmly to these actions. The orthodox approach to reforming the domestic economy has brought Russians hard experiences, condemned the people to making excessive sacrifices, and driven production into a depression. The continuation of this course will lead to the final collapse of the national economy. It is time, the statement stresses, to rid the economy of the passions of political clashes, otherwise a profound government crisis in the very near future cannot be avoided.

Tax Proceeds for First Half of 1993 Viewed

LD2009211893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—In the first six months of 1993 tax proceeds in the Russian Federation accounted for over 11.4 trillion roubles in budgetary receipts, of which 4.7 trillion roubles were directed to the federal budget.

At a preliminary estimate, arrears of tax payments total 1.0 trillion roubles (about 10 per cent of the taxable base).

In the first half of the year, tax revenues corresponded to the rise in prices. For example, in the first quarter of 1993 prices increased by 90 per cent, tax revenues—by 100 per cent.

In the second quarter, analogous values were 70-80 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively.

The two examples prove that taxes are collected rather effectively, analysts at the state taxation service said.

Proposal To Increase Duty on Food Imports Criticized

PM2009095793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 93 p 1

["In The Government" report by Igor Petrov: "Domestic Commodity Producers Must Be Protected Without Hitting Consumers"]

[Text] The government is discussing a proposal by a number of departments to raise by 50 percent the duty on imported foodstuffs. Why among the whole range of stabilization measures is special attention being paid to customs duties on foreign food? The answer is relatively simple. You need only look at the statistics for production and imports of basic food products into Russia in 1991. For instance, we produced 4,614,000 tonnes of our own meat products and imported 522,000 tonnes from the Baltic and CIS countries, and a further 799,000 tonnes from further afield. As for sugar, 3,106,000 tonnes out of a total of 5,867,000 tonnes were imported, and imports of butter amounted to 150,000 tonnes.

Now let us translate these statistics into language the ordinary consumer can understand. For instance, meat coming into Moscow today from Romania costs 1,000 rubles [R] per kilogram. The wholesale prices of meat supplied by Tver or Leningrad Oblasts now exceeds R1,400. Plus transport, plus trade markup.

Of course, given a choice, trade and purchasing organizations prefer to take what is cheapest and of the best quality. Naturally, it is the products of our own kolkhozes and sovkhazes that miss out more often than not. Finding that there is no demand, our peasants willy-nilly are having to think about the quality and about the cost of their goods, or demand protectionist measures by the government.

Let us imagine now that the pressure has had an effect and all food imports are 50 percent dearer. Russian farmers will sigh with relief, because competitors will have been eliminated at a stroke and without a fight. But the owner is the boss, as we know, and he will dictate price policy. On the other hand, just as we had a shortfall of 1.3 million tonnes of meat then, we will continue to have a shortfall—the problem cannot be solved in a year, if you take into account as well the enormous number of animals disposed of in 1991-1992. The picture is more or less the same for other basic food products. So Russia will still be forced to buy some meat, butter, and sugar abroad. If that is not done there will be an enormous hole in the country's food resources, which, for various reasons, our own peasants are

unable to fill. The lack of supplies to meet demand will drive prices up—that is a market axiom.

What is the realistic solution? First of all, the abolition of all import subsidy rates. There would then be an immediate reduction in the number of people wanting to speculate on the different dollar rates, overseas goods would assume their true value, and there would be doubts whether they would be able to compete with ours in price terms anyway.

But there is scarcely any sense in raising the rate of duty on imported articles that physically cannot be produced in Russia. At any rate not on goods that all consumers without exception need.

I am not lobbying for cheap "Amaretto," canned beer, and lobster in its own juices. People are prepared to pay good money for these things. But as for meat products, sugar, and butter, any artificial hike in duty on them can only be a deliberate attempt to filch millions of rubles from already impecunious Russian citizens. But it must be pointed out that this proposal is only being discussed at the moment.

Supreme Soviet

Leadership Holds 'Emergency Meeting'

LD2009133793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] A meeting of the leadership of the Supreme Soviet with the participation of several people's deputies was held at the Russian House of Soviets Sunday night. Konstantin Zlobin, press secretary of the head of parliament, told INTERFAX that the reason for the emergency meeting was that information had reached the Supreme Soviet about the alleged movement of sub-units of the Dzerzhinskiy Division.

Participants in the meeting intended to elucidate the reasons and purpose of the relocation of these sub-units. In the press secretary's words, after the situation was clarified and the information was denied, the meeting ended.

INTERFAX learned from the news service of the Internal Troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs that no relocation of units of the Dzerzhinskiy Internal Troops Division was carried out during Sunday night.

Khasbulatov Comments on Military Movements

LD2009164993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—At a meeting of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium today, Ruslan Khasbulatov informed the deputies that the night of 19-20 September "was not quiet." The leaders and deputies had to spend the night in the White House. The speaker claimed that there was "movement of military units" at midnight. Khasbulatov said that the command of the Ministry of Internal Affairs had provided "a ludicrous

explanation of its reasons: allegedly, there was a hold-up in a foreign company, and \$20,000 was stolen."

Ruslan Khasbulatov reproached the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an "absolutely unacceptable style" of work and complained that the country has no foreign minister because the parliament adopted a resolution relieving the minister from his post "taking into account his negative role."

The speaker urged the members of the Presidium "to be vigilant" adding that "the situation is very unsafe now."

As for the "not quiet" night, the Russian Federation president's information center told ITAR-TASS today that for a few hours the police had carried out a preplanned raid, with the aim of bringing order to Moscow and its oblast where serious crimes have been committed recently. Hundreds of employees of the Main Administration for Internal Affairs of Moscow city and Moscow Oblast, of the central apparatus of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, and troops of the Dzerzhinskiy military division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs took part in the operation. The information center's report states that 640 people were detained for breaching residence rules and committing crimes, or found to be in possession of firearms and small arms, ammunition, and narcotic substances, which were confiscated.

Parliament Sponsors Conference on Regional Budgets

PM2109083793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Report from the POSTFACTUM, INTERFAX, RIA NOVOSTI column: "Budget Formation Will Be Difficult"]

[Text] At parliament's initiative a conference on improving the formation of territorial budgets will be held in Moscow.

It will be held 20-21 September at the Russian Federation Parliamentary Center. A directive on it has been signed by Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Chairmen of Russian Federation republic Supreme Soviets and soviets of people's deputies from the krais, oblasts, and autonomous okrugs have been invited to it, along with representatives of the scientific community and business circles and leaders of various executive structures. The working group to prepare for the conference is headed by Yuriy Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Khasbulatov Addresses Conference

LD2009152093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Report by correspondent Yevgeniy Fateyev at an economic conference at the parliamentary center in Moscow on 20 September, including remarks by Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An economic conference at the parliamentary center today focused on the preparation of local budgets.

[Fateyev] Russia's parliamentary center was today the scene of yet another conference, with yet another appearance by Ruslan Khasbulatov. However, unlike last Saturday, when the speaker, addressing representatives of soviets from all levels in this same hall, made startling revelations about the president and the executive, this time he was much more restrained. Maybe it was because the audience was not so suitable, for it was composed entirely of economists, but another factor was the strictly specialized subject of this meeting: Improving the preparation of regional budgets.

The head of parliament observed that the executive had an extremely primitive understanding of the essence of financial policy and that the tax system pursued by the government would wreck the economy once and for all. There is no need for any coups, the speaker said: All that is needed to destroy this country is to continue with current policy.

Khasbulatov declared that the preparation of financial policy and efforts to rescue it were primarily a matter for the regions:

[Khasbulatov] If this area remains solely the domain of officialdom, even in the form of our brilliant genius of a finance minister, then what sort of federal country are we? What sort of democracy do we have here? When this same finance minister openly mocks people and asserts that the final figures have been decided and that he will not even lift a finger to change them, what is going on? That sort of conduct may be possible in a country with some sort of dictatorial regime, but not in a democratic country.

Parliamentary Factions Discuss Constitution, Elections

MK2109091493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report in the "In Brief" column: "Shakhray To Meet With Factions"]

[Text] Yesterday's session of the Council of Parliamentary Factions discussed the possibility of constitutional reforms, elections, and political consultations with the president. The general view was that a new constitution was hardly necessary. It would be quite enough to amend the current one, though representatives of different political forces naturally view the contents of these amendments differently. Regarding elections, faction coordinators decided that appropriate amendments to the constitution should be passed before passing this law. Since Boris Yeltsin had not replied to the message from the parliamentary factions requesting political consultations, it was decided to start talks with members of his team. The first one of them will be with Sergey Shakhray. He already agreed to a meeting on Wednesday [22 September].

Ministry Will Present TV, Radio Broadcasting Bill

LD2009134593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—A bill on television and radio broadcasting in the Russian Federation will be submitted to the Russian parliament by the Press and Information Ministry together with the parliamentary group "Accord for Progress." The decision on this issue was adopted on Monday [20 September] at parliamentary hearings on radio and television bills which were held by the group at the parliament building.

"The 'ministerial' bill will be an alternative to the main one drafted by the parliamentary mass media committee," Press and Information Ministry deputy minister Oleg Yusetskov told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

He noted that the bill to be submitted by the ministry to the legislature is based on the bill of the Mass Media Committee but has some basic differences. The main disagreements concern the watchdog boards on which legislators insist. The ministry holds that they should be struck out of a law on television and radio.

Deputy Prime Minister Cited on Bread Prices

LD1809090493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 18 Sep 93

[From the "Panorama" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Korotkov] From 1 October prices for bread will be freed in Russia as well: This is what Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha believes.

Speaking in the Russian Supreme Soviet yesterday, he described as abnormal the situation where the price for combined fodders is higher than for baked bread. It is this which is resulting in bread being used as cattle fodder, Zaveryukha believes.

Regional Affairs

8 Reported Killed in Chechnya; Escalation Feared

LD2009134293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] In the Nadterechny district of Chechnya, where supporters and opponents of President Dudayev clashed Saturday, the situation remained "very tense," INTERFAX was told by opposition headquarters officials.

By the latest reports, eight opponents of the president had been killed and seven others injured while seven of his supporters were wounded.

In an INTERFAX interview, the mayor of the district, where last May defiance of official Grozny was declared, said, "the outlook is rather gloomy. I think that the probability of an escalation in bloodshed is high." Umar

Avturkhanov said that in the early hours of Monday, reinforcements of the president's units had arrived from Grozny.

One of the opposition leaders interviewed by INTERFAX expressed his surprise at the indifference with which Russian leaders and democratic public viewed the Chechen developments. In his view, the Russian position was "criminally indifferent."

Chernomyrdin Visits Chernobyl Zone in Bryansk Oblast

PM2109081993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Vasilii Shpachkov: "Government Head in Chernobyl Zone. Viktor Chernomyrdin's Trip to Bryansk Oblast"]

[Text] Bryansk—Victor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, arrived in Bryansk Oblast yesterday evening to attend the celebrations in aid of the 50th anniversary of the oblast's liberation from the German fascist aggressors.

The Russian prime minister intends to visit Krasnogorskiy Rayon, which was the worst-affected area following the Chernobyl accident, and meet with people in the zone where radiation is being rigorously monitored.

There will be a meeting at the oblast administration with leading working people in the oblast.

The Council of Ministers chairman will also meet with the leaders of Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian border oblasts, visit the "Partizanskaya Polyana" memorial complex, and participate in a memorial rally and a meeting celebrating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the oblast.

Kozyrev Opens Conference on Arctic Regions

LD2009121593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow September 20 TASS—An interdepartmental conference has opened in Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs today. The meeting is to resolve problems between different governmental structures so that they can effectively cooperate with each other and with foreign partners on projects in the Barents and Euro-Arctic region.

Representatives from several Russian ministries, departments and border troops, diplomats and leading administrators from Karelia and the Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions are participating in the conference.

"We have vital geopolitical, economic and ecological interests in this region and, partly due to President Yeltsin's international prestige, we have the potential to realize these interests", Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev announced today as he opened the conference.

"The time has passed when we could count on improving the rich Russian north by creating closed zones protected from our neighbors by barbed wire", the foreign minister said. "Now we need to determine what we can do ourselves and what we need from foreign partners, especially the northern European states, in terms of realizing economic cooperation and urgent environmental projects".

Kozyrev said the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is ready to deal with the external political problems involved in achieving these goals.

Kozyrev also noted that it is important to avoid "neo-Bolshevik" solutions to the problems under discussion. Addressing the conference's participants, he said they have just witnessed promising announcements by "several influential figures in the administration" about the necessity of restoring the Soviet Union.

The foreign minister said that such announcements are not only stupid, they are dangerous, especially considering tomorrow's vote in Ukraine about founding an economic union in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Instead of supporting a single economic space, these people are engaged in political demagoguery. Andrey Kozyrev claimed.

Supreme Soviet Commission Tours Sakhalin

OW2109051893 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiv Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 15 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Excerpts] High-ranking guests from the capital have arrived in the Far East. Their purpose is to help us, the Far East residents, solve our regional problems. Some succeed in this and some do not. In any case, time is needed to really evaluate a visit's results, so let us follow the example of our Sakhalin correspondent Ivan Vorobyev and not hurry with our conclusions. Listen to his description of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet commission visit to Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands.

[Begin recording] The plans included visits to Iturup, Kunashir, and Shikotan but weather changed the high-ranking guests' plans: it let them stay on Shikotan for only one hour and prevented them from landing on Kunashir. But what the deputies of the Supreme Soviet and officials of the Ministry of Economy and the committee for fishing resources did see served to strengthen their conviction that we have the wrong government and the wrong president who do not act as they should. At a short conference held on their return to Sakhalin, they drew their conclusions. Everyone in the oblast realizes that the Sakhalin free economic zone and the Kurils sub-zone fails to function because of the lack of legal [word indistinct] first and foremost. But commission members have a different opinion. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet efforts to provide a flow of cargo to the north were not very successful. But how does the situation in the oblast look when representative and executive powers sit down to discuss it? The next speaker is Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, head of the oblast administration.

[Krasnoyarsk] So much money has been stuffed here during the years of Soviet rule that the Kurils should have been made of gold by now. I hear it all the time: Give, give, give. The state just does not have the funds. One should not think that the state support would be very large. When I got nominated to the administration, I thought that [words indistinct]. Mostly theoreticians head the government and the Supreme Soviet. There seems to be a shift towards the rule of pragmatists nowadays. As to the edict on the Kurils—it does not work and will not work. The Council of Ministers decree—it was still the USSR then—on establishing a free economic zone in Sakhalin did not work and will not work because there is no mechanism for implementing this plan. There is no mechanism for implementing the edicts. All these edicts and decrees have no financial backing. A more realistic way, which all of you, and especially the center, seem to be pushing us toward, is finally declaring the oblast a republic. However, we get 70 billion rubles in subsidies from the government today. How can one even talk about proclaiming a republic? Still, we do have hotheads who propose declaring a Far East republic. If the Far East is declared a republic, if [words indistinct] republic, it will be the center who has pushed us toward it.

Any liberal democratic state, or any other civilian state, is founded on the principle that a citizen has to feel the same anywhere in this state. But today, a Tatarstan resident has more privileges than a Sakhalin resident. This is where it becomes your job. If prices for electricity are not adjusted in the near future, the Far East region will further deteriorate. In Krasnoyarskiy Kray, 1 kilowatt costs 1 ruble because we have built very powerful hydroelectric power stations there. But here, the price of 1 kw of electricity approaches 50-100 rubles. I would especially stress the importance of adjusting prices for railroad transportation, which definitely must be subsidized. What does it take to bring a freight car of apples to Tambovskaya Province compared to what it takes to bring it to Sakhalin? Prices in Moscow are three times lower than in Sakhalin today. Is it the Far East resident's fault that we live here? We work for your benefit, the benefit of the center, you know.

It costs 3-4 million rubles to bring a freight car here—2 million to bring it to Vanino and 2 million here. All this is because our ferry service is ineffective. The old ice-breaker ferries consume a lot of fuel, take little cargo, and need a large crew. In 10 years, we will have to rebuild 10 of these ferries. Taking present inflation into account, how much will we need? Would it not be more economical to return to (?Stalin's) railroad project? Prices for [words indistinct] of railroad is estimated at 410 billion rubles for 1991. Russia can get three ice-free ports at once. A tunnel or a bridge—it does not matter. By the way, a tunnel is 10 percent cheaper to build than a bridge. Compared to today's technical achievements, building a 7.5-km long bridge across the Tatarskiy Straits is no big deal. But I repeat: Russia will get three ice-free ports.

The Baltic region is cut off and the Black Sea is cut off, but Ural, Siberia, and Yakutia will be drawn toward the Asian region which produces 50 [words indistinct]. However, we

have only three ports today: Vanino, Nakhodka, and Vladivostok, which are clogged with no relief in sight for the next several years.

If the government does not support us by including supplements in prices for the north, we will be condemned to extinction yet again.

[Passage omitted] This vicious circle will not be broken until we launch our own production in the three sectors of economy: raw materials, its processing, and service. Our goal is to determine how much to invest in [word indistinct]. We are creating two state companies for food and fuel. Wholesale purchasing of food and fuel, [pauses] I can tell you that the Kurils are a source of constant pain for me, a thorn in my side. There are only 30,000 residents there but they stir the whole world.

I would also like to speak about the continental shelf [oil deposits]. We see our recovery, the recovery of Sakhalin, as connected to the project for developing the Far East's hydrocarbon deposits. Previously researched deposits in the Sea of Okhotsk continental shelf amount to 3 billion tonnes of [word indistinct] fuel. Having such an organization as Sakhalinmorneftegaz [Sakhalin Sea Petroleum and Gas Company], the state should naturally be interested in launching this mechanism as soon as possible. [end recording]

Bashkortostan Leader Unhappy With Federation Council

MK2109090493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 3

[Radik Batyrshin report under the "Opinion" rubric]

[Text] Chairman of the Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet Murtaza Rakhimov commented on the creation of the Federation Council.

"We left [Moscow] indignant," he stated. The security system gave him the most negative impression. He says his identity was checked for the first time upon entering the Kremlin, while the guards were trying to follow every step and ask where he was heading. "This never happened before. This is an insulting and humiliating procedure. The feeling often was that the guards wished to search you as well. The question immediately occurred: Was I visiting the Pentagon or the president of Russia?" According to Rakhimov, he has little faith that the Federation Council has been created purely for consultative, deliberative functions. Says Rakhimov: "Would it not be better to direct all efforts to reviving the economy instead of fighting for power? One does not feel like visiting Moscow after such conferences." Rakhimov is positive that 50 percent of the Federation Council will not sign the treaty "On the Creation of the Federation Council" during the next session. "Those who are worried about Russia's future ought not to sign the treaty; they should busy themselves with the economy instead," the head of Bashkortostan's Supreme Soviet thinks. As for early elections proposed by Boris Yeltsin on Saturday, Rakhimov declared: "Early elections should be simultaneous if we wish to pull out of the federal authority crisis."

Moscow City Government Favors Separate Early Elections*MK2109070993 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1*

[Interview with Vladimir Resin, deputy prime minister of the Moscow City Government, by Nikolay Andreyev under the "News From the Top" rubric: "The Council Is in Place. Will We Have Accord?"—date and place not given; first two grafs are introduction]

[Text] The first meeting of the Federation Council, which was held in the Kremlin, has elicited extremely diverse reactions: some believe it to be fruitful; others hold a diametrically opposed view.

Vladimir Resin, deputy prime minister of the Moscow City Government, represented the capital in the Kremlin. Sharing his opinion with your KURANTY correspondent, he said:

[Resin] Earlier, voices were heard saying that the meeting would not take place because there would not be a quorum, but the overwhelming majority of chiefs of republics, krais, oblasts, and cities did come to Moscow. This fact alone is very important; it means that Russia's fate concerns everyone.

Second, the Federation Council with consultative and advisory functions was effectively set up. I am confident that this council will be able to work beneficially for the common cause. It plans to hear and discuss at its next meeting a report by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on the economic situation in the country and also to consider and adopt the Federation Council's charter.

[Andreyev] Vladimir Iosifovich, what was the reaction to President Yeltsin's statement that he is ready to subject himself to early presidential elections?

[Resin] Most speakers spoke in favor of early elections for all branches of power, but not simultaneously.

[Andreyev] Electing a new parliament first, and then a president?

[Resin] Yes, because there should be some continuity in power, otherwise the already complex situation would only be compounded. Moscow favors this particular option.

59 Percent of Muscovites Oppose Early Elections*MK2109103293 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1*

[Unattributed report "Would Elections Help?" under the "MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA Poll" rubric]

[Text] The "Express" sociological service (directed by Professor V. Komarovskiy) working for our newspaper conducted a telephone poll on 17-18 September of 618 Muscovites in various rayons around the city, in accordance with its selection pattern.

Many politicians name early elections of all and everyone in the top bodies and positions of power—parliament, president, government—as a universal remedy for the current crisis in Russia. Do Muscovites link their hopes for a better future with the need to re-elect the power structures as early as this fall? The poll just conducted shows that this is far from being the case. In particular, the following answers were received (in percentages) to the question: "If elections to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet are to take place in the coming months, will you or will you not take part in the voting?"

Yes—46

No—35

Undecided—19

Those "at the top" today enjoy a rather low rating. A comparative majority of 57 percent stated that "all power branches are 'good' and only care for their own good." According to 18 percent of those polled, the power branches defend only the interests of the mafia and scalpers. As few as 6 percent said the present rulers protect the interests of ordinary people. The remaining 19 percent found the question hard to answer.

A considerable part of those polled, nevertheless, feared that re-elections might make things worse and preferred that everything remain as it is over power changes. Those taking part in the poll gave these answers (in percentages) to the question: "Are simultaneous re-elections of the legislative and executive powers necessary today?"

Yes—24

No—59

Undecided—17

International Affairs

Kiev Urges Russia To Settle Georgia Conflict

LD2009172093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503
GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, describing the situation in Georgia as "inadmissible", believes that Russia must take more decisive steps to settle the conflict as the party which assumed the peace-keeping role, INTERFAX-UKRAINE was told by the Acting Head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Main Information Department Natalya Zarudnaya.

Asked about the possible reaction by Ukrainian Foreign Ministry due to the appeal by the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, she said the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry had offered moral support to Georgia in its statement of September 17.

On September 19 Shevardnadze said that he relied on the assistance of the Ukrainian people with whose president he signed the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

As to concrete assistance, it is within the competence of the Ukrainian government, said the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson.

She said that the Ukrainian-Georgian treaty signed in the spring of 1993 did not provide for military assistance to each other. Besides, she said, the document is not ratified by Ukrainian parliament.

On September 17, in its statement the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry urged that Georgia and Abkhazia resolve their conflict through talks observing Georgia's territorial integrity.

Kiev Demands Russian Compensation for Nuclear Arms

LD2009195593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851
GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] It is only possible to re-deploy warheads from Ukraine to Russia for their scrapping after all issues, including compensation for short-range nuclear weapons, have been resolved. The statement was made at a news conference September 20 by the Deputy Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk. He says that Russia provides no explanations for its unwillingness to compensate for the re-deployed warheads for short-range nuclear weapons. It is a question of our national interests and big money, he said.

Tarasyuk said that he could provide no commentary on the appeal to Kiev by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to help Georgia. "No comment," he added.

Kravchuk Assessing Georgia Request for Military Aid

LD2009155193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509
GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Ukrainian president's press secretary Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview Monday that "the message in which the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze asks for military aid has reached Leonid Kravchuk and is being considered in the context of the Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid Treaty the two countries have signed."

Shlyaposhnikov noted that the Treaty did not call for any unilateral activities in situations such as that in Abkhazia now. Any military steps, he explained, could be taken only as part of efforts made by the entire world community.

President Kravchuk told the cabinet to consider Shevardnadze's request for humanitarian aid.

Military Lobbies Against Massandra Accords

PM2109083193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Semena report: "'Impromptu Massandra Arrangement' Has Given Sevastopol a Headache"]

[Text] Two events have produced a new spiral in the drastic worsening of the political climate in Sevastopol—the Ukrainian Security Council session scheduled for 17 September, which is to examine the presidents' "impromptu Massandra arrangement" on the sale by Ukraine of its part of the fleet, and the upcoming visit to Sevastopol by a Russian parliamentary commission.

The crews of ships and the collectives of directorates, services, and units of the country's Navy have appealed to the Ukrainian Defense Council. They ask the top military body to bear in mind that "they fully support the stance of Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General K. Morozov... and consider that the sale of the fleet with all its infrastructure grossly impugns the honor and national dignity of the people and is a tragic step toward the loss of their independence." Ukraine's sailors ask the Defense Council to make a decision not in accordance with the Massandra agreement but in accordance with the Dagomys and Yalta agreements as "most fully reflecting the interests of Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea." They propose that "at the same time the fleet's shore-based infrastructure on Ukrainian soil be immediately and unreservedly taken into Ukraine's jurisdiction. While only certain facilities in certain of Ukraine's ports essential for ship support services may be leased to Russia."

The Ukrainian Navy Officers Union has pointed out in its statement that "The Black Sea Fleet... has shown itself in every respect to be an active anti-Ukrainian force where only the Russian president's edicts, Russian laws, and the Russian defense minister's orders operate." The Officers Union insists that the Defense Council refuse Russia's proposal that the Ukrainian part of the fleet be sold to it, that all onshore infrastructure be immediately subordinated to it, that the fleet be split up on the basis of the

preceding agreements, that induction of Ukrainian citizens into the Black Sea Fleet be stopped, and that agreement be given to basing Russian squadrons in Sevastopol by way of exception.

For their part, the military units and subunits of the Black Sea Fleet, the Coordinating Council of Officers Assemblies, and Air Force collectives have expressed support for the presidents' Massandra decision in the resolutions of assemblies and in messages to the presidents and the chairmen of the Supreme Soviets and Defense Ministries of Russia and Ukraine. They state the need to keep the fleet and shore-based infrastructure united under Russia's jurisdiction.

At the same time I. Yermakov, representative of the president of Ukraine in Sevastopol and deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, has proposed in a special statement the conclusion of a special treaty between Ukraine and Russia recognizing Sevastopol as a free zone within the Ukraine which would offer bases for both states' fleets for an appropriate payment into the city's budget.

Government Says Country Continues Financing Fleet

AU2109083093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Sep 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Financing the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] The information issued by the Press Center of the Russian Federation's Naval Fleet to the effect that Ukraine has unilaterally stopped financing the Black Sea Fleet does not reflect the true situation. This was stated by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, which has refuted the "sensation" alleging that the Russian Naval Fleet has been compelled to finance the Black Sea Fleet.

Ukraine continues financing the Black Sea Fleet, reads the document issued by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. According to the data submitted by the financial administration of Ukraine's military department, in 1992, Ukraine's contribution to maintaining the Black Sea Fleet accounted for 85.1 percent of the total sum. As reported by the financial service of the Black Sea Fleet, over the first half of the current year, this sum already reached 73.5 percent.

At the same time, points out the Press Service, a certain disproportion exists in the shares for financing the Black Sea Fleet. It is mainly due to violations in the mechanism of financing. This is also due to the fact that the financial service of Ukraine's Naval Forces, as Ukraine's state structure, is not always informed about the Black Sea Fleet financing by the Russian side.

Crimea Supreme Council Wants CIS Treaties Concluded

LD2009132393 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1128 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Simferopol, 20 Sep—The Supreme Council of the Crimea has sent an appeal to President Leonid Kravchuk and the chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council. The appeal points out that the Supreme Council of the Crimea

considers it necessary for Ukraine to conclude a treaty on an economic union and collective security with countries of the CIS, including the Russian Federation. The Supreme Council of the Crimea notes that such a step is the only way for Ukraine to emerge from the crisis.

Crimea Problem Expected To Worsen in Autumn

PM2009115793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 3

[Article by Vladimir Maryukha: "Crimean Fall Promises To Be Hotter Than Summer. This Is Partly Due to New Round of Speculation on the Agreement Reached on Future of Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] Before the 3 September agreement was signed the controversy was about whether the Black Sea Fleet would survive if it was split in two. But the decision made in Massandra was not Solomonic either, because the Ukrainian side—in particular the Defense Ministry, the Ukrainian Officers' Union, the opposition to President Leonid Kravchuk, and various nationalist organizations—are unwilling to agree to implement it. The period set by the agreement for the work of the expert commissions had not yet expired when Ukraine unilaterally ceased to finance the Black Sea Fleet. Pronouncements to the effect that the "Russian Black Sea Fleet does not protect Ukraine's interests since Russia has a different military doctrine" could be regarded as the "quietest" criticism of the signed document.

At the same time, Ivan Yermakov, the Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol, said that since it has been decided that the Black Sea Fleet is indivisible, it is necessary to implement that decision and not "work back, toward division." The Black Sea Fleet, Yermakov said, is well able to defend Ukraine's interests, when you consider that we are fraternal Slavic peoples. Particularly as, according to him, the Ukrainian Navy is not about to become a really reliable defender of the republic's interests at sea—the republic cannot pay for the ships that are being built. The problems of the Black Sea Fleet, Crimea, and Sevastopol must be tackled together. Yermakov said at a 15 September news conference. And the only acceptable way is to create a free economic zone in Sevastopol and enable Russia and Ukraine to lease basing rights for their ships there. Crimea might subsequently become a Russian-Ukrainian protectorate.

By saying what he said the president's representative could inflame the nationalist passions which are being whipped up by the opponents of the presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet at bases in Ukraine. Add to that the discontent over the new round of price rises, in connection with which several simultaneous rallies are planned for Sevastopol on 17 September, switching the population's attention from political problems to economic demands.

The Black Sea Fleet itself, which is not going through the best of times at the moment, could soon get some tangible support from Russia. Delegations from six oblasts, including Voronezh, Lipetsk, and Belgorod, have all

arrived in Sevastopol to sign an agreement with the Black Sea Fleet command to supply food.

Anti-Russian Sentiment Running High in Lvov

PM2009113193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "West Ukraine: Nationalists Break Windows in Russian Schools"]

[Text] The recent Crimean accords of Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin have caused a new flareup of anti-Russian feeling in West Ukraine.

Ultrationalists, who include people's deputies of all levels, have begun accusing the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine of actually bearing responsibility for "what happened in Crimea." Overt calls for violence against Russians were heard at the last "Lvov assembly," held alongside the opera theater. The creation of detachments of vigilantes was announced at that rally. There Irina Kalinets, member of the Ukrainian parliament, demanded that everything Russian, including schools, be driven from Lvov Oblast. During the night stones were thrown through the windows of seven Russian-language schools, and leaflets reading "Get out of Ukraine" were scattered about.

Supreme Council Refutes POSTFACTUM Assertion

AU2109110193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
17 Sep 93 p 2

[Statement: "Who Profits From This? The Supreme Council Press Service Refutation"]

[Text] As has become known to us, the Russian agency POSTFACTUM has disseminated through the mass media, with the note "urgent," a statement under the sensational title "The Russian Deputy Has Disclosed Protocols of Ukrainian Elders." It reads that a certain people's deputy of the Russian Federation, a member of the "Otechizna" [Russian—Fatherland] faction, kindly gave POSTFACTUM a "document," alleging that, on 8 September, the faction "Defense and Security of Ukraine's National Salvation Council" held a closed meeting in Kiev. The text of this "document" states, in particular, the following: "The meeting was presided over by Mr. Durdynets. It was attended by Messrs. Kravchuk, Plyushch, Durdynets, Kuchma, Chornovil, Zlenko, Zayets, Yavorivskyy, Drach, Morozov, Marchuk, Vasylyshyn, commander of the National Guard Pidhaynyy, and commanders of UNSO-UNA [Ukrainian People's Self-Defense and Ukrainian Nationalist Assembly]...." The meeting allegedly discussed the question of "Ukraine's practical steps aimed at blocking Russian influence in the Black Sea Region."

We will not continue to quote from this so-called "document." We will only say that its text, from the first to the last line, is a complete concoction and a grossly fabricated falsehood. The aforementioned faction and the National Salvation Council are non-existent in Ukraine, and the list of participants may only cause a well informed person to wonder or smile. Therefore, such a meeting did not and

could not take place. Incidentally, V.V. Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, who allegedly presided over the meeting, was, on that day, on vacation outside Kiev. The name of the commander of the National Guard is not Pidhaynyy, but V.O. Kukharets who was also outside Kiev on that day.

Consequently, the POSTFACTUM agency published a dirty fabrication for an obviously provocative purpose. Some people are very keen, in this difficult time, to exacerbate relations between Ukraine and Russia, and that is why they resort to insinuations and spiteful lies.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Rejects Kuchma Resignation

LD2109124093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1221 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko, Aleksandr Litvinov, Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Sept—The question of the resignation of Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma was considered today by the eighth session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The resignation was not accepted. The deputies have left for a two-hour break.

Supreme Council Approves Agenda for 8th Session

LD2009205293 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev—In a closed session on 20 September, the Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium approved the agenda for the first meeting of the Ukrainian parliament's eighth session which is to begin on 21 September. It is as follows: a decision on Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's resignation; the government's economic activity program for 1993-94; holding a referendum on confidence (non-confidence) in the parliament and president; concluding an agreement on economic union; and discussing a draft of the new Constitution of Ukraine. Most Presidium members are in favor of two branches of executive power to be led by President Leonid Kravchuk.

The meeting also dealt with forming a National Emergency Powers Committee [Natsionalnyy Komitet z Nadzvychaynymy Povnovazhennyamy] to be composed of the president, the Supreme Council chairman, and the ministers of economy and power engineering. The possibility of legitimizing the future committee was discussed. It is likely that it will be proposed that the deputies should settle the issue of the expediency of sessions being broadcast on the radio and television.

To Discuss Economic, Political Crises

LD2109083793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0759 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 21—The Ukrainian parliament opened its eighth session today to discuss a comprehensive programme of government action to stabilise the financial system and pull the country out of the crisis amid waves of discontent sweeping the republic suffering from economic and political setbacks.

Of special importance are the draft treaty of economic union and the proposed referendum on confidence in the president and the parliament of Ukraine.

The parliament is also to consider Ukraine's new constitution.

As of this hour, the parliament is debating the proposed agenda and priority of items.

Defense Minister Dismisses Army Paper Editor

LD2009215293 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1250 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received]—Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov has issued an order appointing Major General Yosyp Oseychuk as chief of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry management of affairs directorate. [passage omitted]

In accordance with another order issued by Morozov, the first deputy chief editor of the newspaper NARODNA ARMIYA (organ of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry), Colonel Valentyn Dmytriiev, has been removed from office. The reason is Dmytriiev's negligence in preparing an article by Kostyantyn Morozov that was printed with one page of text missing.

Officers' Union Head Denounces Press Accusations

WS2109115093 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Major General Oleksandr Skipalskiy, head of the Union of Officers of Ukraine [SOU], has come forward with a statement regarding the document entitled "The SOU Statement," which was published by KHRESHCHATYK on 16 September. This document was supposedly adopted at an SOU Executive Committee meeting on 11 September. The document assails certain state officials and contrasts the commander in chief of Ukraine with the minister of defense. Oleksandr Skipalskiy, as the head of the SOU, underlines that no statement was adopted at the aforementioned meeting and attempts made by certain participants to evaluate the Ukrainian president's activities were rejected. The SOU, its Executive Committee and head, have nothing in common with the published statement.

Donetsk Miners Suspend Coal Deliveries

WS2009145893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Donetsk municipal strike committee has begun the protest announced earlier today. A miners' rally will be staged on Zhovtneva Square at 1300 local time [1000 GMT]. The miners' chief demand is the president's and the Supreme Council's resignation. As the Donetsk strike committee has informed, 26 Donetsk mines, four Oblast coal companies, and all Makiyivka mines decided to suspend coal deliveries. The Donetsk municipal strike committee has decided not to send its representatives to picket the Supreme Council scheduled for tomorrow.

Servicemen's Trade Union Holds Congress

LD2009192593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 20 Sep 93

[No video available]

[Excerpts] The 11th Congress of the Ukrainian Servicemen's Independent Trade Union [NPVU] has taken place at the Kiev Mohyla Academy. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] The aim of our congress is the legal and social protection of members of our organization of regular officers, as well as asserting our right to build our Ukrainian National Army ourselves and, as military professionals, asserting our right to protect our homeland.

[Unidentified correspondent] Officers, do you agree with what your leader said?

[Voices] Yes, absolutely.

[Correspondent] The congress dealt with preparations to hold the Fifth Congress of the Ukrainian Officers Union [SOU]—which may unite the SOU with the NPVU—the necessity to seek ways to achieve mutual understanding and establish cooperation with the defense minister, and participation in elections to the Supreme Council.

At the same time, accusations against the Ukrainian Officers Union were rebutted. It had been accused of engaging in political activity. In accordance with the SOU charter, its primary responsibility is indeed to take part in building the Ukrainian Armed Forces, which in the opinion of the NPVU was exactly what the Ukrainian Officers Union sought to achieve.

The NPVU said that in future as well, it intends its own activity to be governed solely by Ukrainian laws. [end recording]

Belarus

Shushkevich Sees No Threat From CIS Economic Union

LD2009195093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Parliamentary Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich last Friday was surprised over Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich's statement calling the Commonwealth a disappointment. Shushkevich said he saw no reason why the Prime Minister should attend the CIS heads of state and government summit in Moscow on September 24 "if he holds such a view."

Speaking at a news conference in Minsk, he accused the cabinet of inability to adapt itself to new conditions and blasted Kebich's idea of first creating an economic union of three Slav states—Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Shushkevich warned against confrontation between Asian and Slav republics.

Commenting on a statement by leading deputies, who plan at the next session to raise the question of denouncing the 1991 Belovezh accords on dismantling the Soviet Union, Shushkevich said that "only amateurs can do that." In his view, one may just as well try to denounce resolutions adopted during Russia's October Revolution of 1917. The denunciation of the CIS founding agreements would make sense providing parliaments of all other CIS member states do the same, but if not, it will be just a new declaration, Shushkevich said.

Asked if he might be forced to step down at the next session, the parliamentary chairman said there was no reason why he should be removed. "To begin with, I did not try to prevent the government from ensuring fuel supplies to the republic," he said implying Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Kostikov's assurances this spring that Belarus would have ample stocks of oil and oil products

later in the year. Shushkevich described the fuel situation as critical adding that the parliament was simply cheated.

On a closer CIS economic union, the Belarusian leader said he was an ardent supporter of further CIS integration and that the country's membership in the would-be economic union would not encroach on Belarusian sovereignty. At the same time, Shushkevich had to admit to substantial difficulties that might arise in the re-adjustment of the country's economic legislation to Russia's.

"Russia has gone far ahead of us on the way of reforms," he said. Shushkevich believes the creation of a CIS labor market is by far the most daunting task because new economic union must provide equal employment opportunities to the citizens of all signatory states.

On Yegor Gaidar's comeback to the Russian government, Shushkevich spoke of his sympathy for the Russian economist likening Gaidar to those "economists who led Germany and Poland out of deadlock." However, Shushkevich hastened to stress his statement must be taken as one made by an individual, not as parliamentary chairman, lest he should be accused of meddling in Russia's internal affairs.

Trade Unions Support Economic Union Within CIS

LD2009211493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The presidium of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus has expressed their support of Belarus joining the economic union within the framework of the CIS. The official statement of the presidium dedicated to the social and economic situation in the republic says that trade unions support the decision on creation of an economic union. However, they consider inadmissible any loss of economic and political independence of the republic or damage to interests of the population during a transfer the Russian ruble as a single payment means.

Kazakhstan**Nazarbayev 'Surprised' at Lack of French Investment***PM2009115993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Sep 93 First Edition p 2*

[Yuriy Kovalenko report: "Francois Mitterrand's First Visit to Kazakhstan. In LE FIGARO Interview Nursultan Nazarbayev Says: 'There Are People in the Russian Government Acting Against Russia's Interests'"]

[Text] Paris—French President Francois Mitterrand arrived on his first official visit to Kazakhstan 16 September. Paris regards this republic, which possesses nuclear weapons, with special attention because of its position at the strategic crossroads of the zones of influence of Russia, China, and Turkey and because of its huge reserves of natural resources and its political stability.

I think that the personality of Nursultan Nazarbayev himself, who enjoys great respect here and has a good rapport with Francois Mitterrand, has played an important role in France's desire to develop relations with Kazakhstan.

"Kazakhstan," the head of the French Republic said in an interview on Kazakhstan television, "is one of the most stable and promising states which were once part of the Soviet Union."

The French president is accompanied on his trip by three ministers—the foreign minister, the industry and foreign trade minister, and the higher education and research minister—plus a large group of industrialists and businessmen representing such sectors as power supply, transport, electronics, and textiles.

The development of economic ties between France and Kazakhstan is carried out within the framework of the Treaty on Friendship, Accord, and Cooperation signed by the two presidents in Paris in September 1992. The French oil companies Total and Elf Aquitaine, the construction company Bouygues, and certain others are energetically developing their activity.

However, on the whole the Kazakhstan side, which expected incomparably more from the French, does not hide its disappointment at the progress of cooperation and the caution shown by its partner. "I am sometimes surprised," Nazarbayev said in a LE FIGARO interview "when I see how little French involvement there is in the exploitation of our natural resources... We have a legal framework which guarantees foreigners' rights. This is extensively utilized by the Germans, Turks, Austrians, and Koreans, who are engaged in significant projects. But not France."

As I see it, Paris and Almaty have an identical viewpoint on the need to develop the closest ties between this Asian republic and Moscow. "Kazakhstan's future," Nazarbayev observed in that same interview, "is bound up with the development of close and friendly relations with Russia,

with a united and democratic Russia which is successful in carrying out economic reform. Kazakhstan wants that kind of Russia..."

Finally, the interview contains another noteworthy passage connected with the situation in Russia. "There are people among Yeltsin's advisers and among the members of his government," the Kazakhstan president stressed, "who act against Russia's interests. They think that if Russia were on its own—without the CIS—it would recover more quickly and everything would be better. I don't know what guides these people but I do know that the destruction of the weak CIS mechanism will be the start of the destruction of Russia."

Nazarbayev Meets Mongolian Great People's Hural Head*LD2009211993 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in
Kazakh 1400 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] The official Mongolian delegation continues its visit to Almaty. Over the weekend the eminent guests familiarized themselves with places of interest in the capital of Kazakhstan and Almaty Oblast.

Today the Mongolian delegation held talks with the official delegation of the Supreme Kenges of Kazakhstan led by Serikbolsyn Abdildin. The heads of the legislative bodies analysed the state of bilateral intergovernmental and interparliamentary relations and briefed each other on the situation, discussed ways of further broadening and developing contacts. An agreement on cooperation between the Supreme Kenges and the Great People's Hural was signed.

At the news conference for journalists this document was characterized as the one of paramount importance as it opens up new horizons for cooperation.

President Nazarbayev received the chairman of the Great People's Hural Natsagiyn Bagabandi. During the conversation, problems concerning the upcoming visit to Mongolia by a Kazakhstani official delegation were discussed. A number of important documents including an agreement on friendship and mutual assistance, and an accord on investments and [words indistinct] are expected to be signed.

Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Kayrolla Yerezhpov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Kenges, participated in the meeting.

On 21 September the Mongolian parliamentary delegation is flying out to Istanbul.

Cooperation Accord Signed*LD2109080793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0654
GMT 21 Sep 93*

[By KAZTAG correspondent Tatyana Zhurbenko for TASS]

[Text] Almaty September 21 TASS—A Mongolian Parliament delegation, led by Natsagiyn Bagabandi, chairman of the Great State Hural, ended their visit to Kazakhstan on Tuesday.

During the three days of their stay in the republic, the delegation had talks with Republican Parliament Chief Serikbolsyn Abdildin and met with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, went sightseeing in Almaty, and toured the capital's region.

The visit resulted in the signing of an agreement on cooperation between the Parliament of Kazakhstan and the Great State Hural of Mongolia. A decision was taken to set up an interstate commission which will consider, among other things, matters aimed at preparing a visit of the president of Kazakhstan to Ulaanbaatar in October this year.

A number of important documents, including a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance, are expected to be signed during the forthcoming visit.

Embassy Opens in China; Nazarbayev To Visit in Oct

LD2009205593 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Kazakhstan has opened an embassy in China. Kazakhstani Ambassador to China Murat Auezov announced that Nursultan Nazarbayev will visit China in October. Alongside other documents, a joint declaration on cooperation and friendship, as well as an agreement to open a direct air route between Beijing and Almaty, are expected to be signed.

World Bank Grants \$180-Million Loan for Imports

LD2109081793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0728 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Mzareulov]

[Text] Washington September 21 TASS—In a press release, circulated here on Monday, the World Bank announced the granting of a loan of 180 million dollars to Kazakhstan.

This "loan for reconstruction" is to be used to offset expenditures on the import of commodities, which are essential for a further functioning of the key services in the public sector and the normalisation of major branches of production, the press release said.

The World Bank assigned the funds to give support for the reform programme of the Government of Kazakhstan.

The loan was granted at a standard bank interest which may change from year to year and which is now 7.43 per cent, with Kazakhstan being granted a five-year dererment in the payment of interest. The loan is to be repaid within 17 years.

Tajikistan

Mirzoyev Wants Commonwealth To Send Joint Forces

LD2009201193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; by correspondents Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Tajikistan wants the CIS summit, to be held in Moscow on September 24, to make a decision on sending joint CIS forces to that republic. Vice-Premier Rustam Mirzoyev said in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX. If this happens, he said, Tajikistan will be able to move its own troops from the border and disarm the fighters of the informal (pro-government) Popular Front units who "are still at large in the country."

In Mirzoyev's view, a joint CIS force would also make it possible to hold elections, "otherwise it will be voting with automatic rifles."

The vice-premier also thinks that unless a joint force is sent, negotiations with the opposition are impossible. "At least the world would then see what our opposition is like and what it wants." He also said that unofficial negotiations were underway with opposition leaders, "not those who were in the forefront before but with new, moderate people."

He added that Tajikistan would like, say, Russia, the U.S.A., Egypt or Saudi Arabia to nominate a team of experts who would lay the groundwork for the negotiations. "The Dushanbe government will arrive at the negotiations with a constitution draft "approved by an independent international team of experts."

Tajikistan also wants restoration of the economic union. "The longer we drag our feet on this matter, the sooner the hotheads may overtake both Russia and Tajikistan," he emphasized.

"We should be calling ourselves a Commonwealth of States Heavily Dependent on One Another because we can solve our common problems only by joint efforts," the vice-premier thinks.

He said that following the Moscow meetings, the Tajik negotiators would go on to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly. The head of state Imamali Rakhmanov will make a speech there. An economic reform program that has been worked out in Tajikistan will be submitted to independent experts so as to make it attractive for foreign investors. He said that Tajikistan would not succumb to the Western pressure and will not speed up privatization.

Border Troop Commander Warns of New Armed Actions

LD2109080393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0315 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has forced Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of Russia's border troops, to make a special statement. It says

that there is information indicating that new armed actions on the border are being prepared. The command of the Russian border troops and the Defense Ministry, jointly with relevant Tajikistani structures, are taking appropriate measures, and combatants will be held responsible if the situation exacerbates again.

Further Measures Adopted To Safeguard Economy
LD2009141193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122
GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Tajik government has decreed extra measures to safeguard the republic's economy. The decree provides

for boosting the number of customs officers by 620. It recommends that the National Customs Committee step up control and act promptly to curb the smuggling of various valuable commodities into and out of the republic and to set up outposts on all motorways and railroads, at terminals and airports to operate round the clock.

Special troops will be armed with automatic guns, pistols, sniper rifles, rubber truncheons, and other weapons.

Experts believe the decree will make it possible to curb smuggling and safeguard the Tajik economy .

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan on Influences by Georgian Crisis

LD2009183193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan hopes that a better situation in Georgia will bring some stability to Armenia. For the time being, Armenia should plan emergency measures to avoid a disaster, the president noted at a meeting with the leadership of the AI-Armenia "Iyastan" in Yerevan.

He blamed the worsened economic situation in Armenia on the halt of railway transportation through Georgia and said that the tension in neighboring Georgia "has given Armenia serious problems."

On a political settlement in Karabakh, Ter-Petrosyan said: "Our analysis, our diplomatic activity together with world-community assistance to resolve the problem have made us realize that peace is at hand, but to achieve it Armenian and Karabakh should act coherently, flexibly, and reasonably. If these efforts succeed, Armenia will get out of the war with honor and will secure better positions at further negotiations."

As a top priority measure, the president called for a cease-fire to initiate "patient talks through compromise." He remarked, however, that this was dependent not only on Armenia but "on contradictions between world community members." He regretted that the world community has until now failed to draft a flexible settlement plan and has enabled the conflicting sides to maneuver and criticize the suggested options.

Nonetheless, he said, the latest contacts with foreign officials, the U.S. president's envoy among them, inspire confidence that the peace process may yield fruit very soon. "I am an optimist," Ter-Petrosyan remarked. "We are close to peace now. And peace means not only an end to hardships but also real prospects for national independence and economic reconstruction through Iyastan and other organizations."

IF [INTERFAX] note: The Iyastan (Armenia) Fund was created in 1991 to restore the republic's economy, consolidate Armenia as a state, and rebuild the areas devastated by an earthquake in 1988. The foundation has opened branches in many countries with Armenian communities—France, U.S., Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay.

At a meeting with representatives of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in Yerevan on Sunday [19 September], Ter-Petrosyan gave an assurance that Armenia would support any peace mission aimed at resolving the Karabakh conflict. In his opinion, the combination of Russia's efforts with world community measures is the key to a Karabakh settlement.

In the president's words, Armenia's position remains unchanged—a truce to enable the Minsk-based CSCE to search for a solution to all legal issues.

Karabakh Parliament Postpones Policy Discussion

NC2009142093 Yerevan SNARK in English 0936 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Stepanakert, September 20 (SNARK)—The Karabakh Parliament, to all appearances, will approve the started two-sided contacts between Karabakh and Azerbaijan. This opinion was expressed today to SNARK by Gegam Bagdasaryan, the Karabakh Parliament press-secretary.

According to his words, the stake on the direct negotiations with Azerbaijan, made by the Karabakh Government, is not accidental. For the short time of the direct dialogue, in Bagdasaryan's opinion, more results were achieved including the temporary armistice, than for the all period of peace-making process with the participation of international mediators.

It should be mentioned that the Karabakh Parliament is going to discuss the foreign policy priorities of the young republic today at the starting Karabakh Parliament session.

[In a related Stepanakert-dated report, headlined "Session of the Karabakh Parliament Will Take Place on 21st of September," Yerevan SNARK in English at 1028 GMT on 20 September adds the following: "The session of the Karabakh Parliament should have started today."

"The decision is to postpone the session for tomorrow, September 22 [date as received], because of the absence of quorum."]

Defense Head on Baku's CIS Vote, Karabakh Talks

NC2109105893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0852 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Stepanakert, September 21 (SNARK)—Karabakh considers that the direct two-sided negotiations with Azerbaijan are the shortest way to the prolonged problem regulation, Robert Kocharyan, the State Defence Committee head, said today to the SNARK reporter. Answering to the question about the Azerbaijani Milli Mejlis' decision to join the CIS countries and the collective security treaty, Kocharyan said that he didn't want to give any evaluations to this fact, because it's the internal affair of the neighboring country and it must decide itself, how to make its future life and whom to take as an ally.

Azerbaijan

National Assembly Meets To Discuss Joining CIS

Details of Assembly Debate

NC2009213693

[Editorial Report] Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri and Baku Azerbaijan Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri carries the proceedings of the Azerbaijan National Assembly debate on CIS membership on 20 September: monitoring of the radio begins at 1200 GMT and TV

coverage begins at 1523 GMT. Reception is very poor to unmonitorable throughout the proceedings.

After the speeches of a number of deputies, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev declares a half-hour recess at 1325 GMT.

At 1420 GMT the radio starts broadcasting the National Assembly debate with Geydar Aliyev inviting the deputies to express their views.

At 1455 GMT interference makes a reply by Aliyev to a criticism by a deputy unheard. Aliyev stresses his loyalty to Azerbaijan's independence, but says that: "No state can live isolated from others." He also says that the CIS does not mean the restoration of the Soviet Union. Most of his speech is unmonitorable. Reception gradually improves when Aliyev is heard criticizing Abulfaz Elchibey.

Former Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov then says that the Azerbaijan National Assembly has debated the issue of joining the CIS five times in the past and has always rejected it. He adds: "As before, I maintain that Azerbaijan should not join the CIS. Instead, it should continue its path of independence." He argues against claims that membership in the CIS will solve Azerbaijan's problems. Gasymov says that if Azerbaijan enters the CIS it would mean mandating Russia to solve the Karabakh problem, and this would entail "our recognition of the independence of Karabakh Armenians." He also says that Azerbaijan will lose its legislative and military independence. He adds that CIS membership will only serve Russia's strategic interests. When he tries to draw a parallel with the events at the turn of this century and delves into past history, Geydar Aliyev retorts by saying: "You have said these things a thousand times. Say something new. You are rechewing the same things."

After this, Gasymov replies that unity in the nation and in the Army is needed to solve Azerbaijan's problems and defend the lands. He says that if Aliyev wanted he could achieve this. Gasymov calls for the formation of a national reliance government.

Aliyev criticizes Gasymov, saying that he and the People's Front is engaged in uncivilized opposition and now are calling for unity.

At 1523 GMT the television starts carrying the live session of the National Assembly. In a brief statement, Prime Minister Suret Guseynov says there is no state in the world isolated from others, and faced with danger to its security each state feels the need to obtain the support of, or enter into union with, other states. Noting that Azerbaijan is economically, culturally, and scientifically tied to Russia and these ties cannot be severed, Suret Guseynov repeats several times: "In my view, under the present conditions the most optimal choice is to join the CIS." On Karabakh he says that the solution of the Karabakh problem also depends on membership in the CIS. Guseynov adds: "If no positive agreement could be reached on the Karabakh problem, say in six months, then we could express our view and leave the CIS."

The leader of the main opposition National Independence Party, Etibar Mamedov, refers to a recent press campaign in favor of joining the CIS. He says views contrary to this were not allowed to be published.

Aliyev responds that no such instructions had been given to the press by high-level government officials; he personally had called for free debate on CIS membership.

Mamedov continues by saying that membership in the CIS will not automatically solve the Karabakh and other problems of Azerbaijan. He says Azerbaijan could satisfy Russia's strategic interests while maintaining its independence. He believes a CIS collective security agreement will only serve Russia's interests. He also argues that membership in the CIS will not improve the economic and financial situation in Azerbaijan. Mamedov also calls on Aliyev "to choose the path of independence for Azerbaijan." Mamedov also says that Azerbaijani soldiers are not cowards. They could fight if there was an effective leadership and discipline.

Aliyev responds that although Azeri youths are not cowards, Azerbaijan has not been able to set up an army. He accuses the past leadership and "mafioso groups" for that failure. He also accuses Mamedov for going along with past leadership.

Aliyev says: "No one is forcing us to enter the CIS. This idea arose here in Azerbaijan. Let me tell you again, as the person who is executing the powers of the head of state, that there was no pressure from Russia at all. I never felt such a pressure. This is a problem that has arisen here and is being discussed." Aliyev adds that Azerbaijan is independent and will remain so.

In his speech Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov supports CIS membership, saying that it will gain CIS support at the UN.

At 1639 GMT the television suddenly goes off the air but the radio continues to broadcast the National Assembly session. Gasanov continues to argue in favor of joining the CIS, saying that it is not a supranational government. He reads articles from the CIS charter to show that Azerbaijan will always have final say on CIS decisions and that membership in the CIS will not prevent Azerbaijan from establishing ties with other states.

Aliyev is heard repeating that the issue of CIS membership was not his private idea but arose out of the conditions existing in the Republic. He says the general opinion is to join the CIS and the CIS collective defense agreement.

At 1724 GMT Aliyev puts a resolution to a vote. Aliyev says that the Turkish foreign minister considers membership in the CIS as Azerbaijan's internal affair.

The National Assembly adopts a number of resolutions submitted by Aliyev, but due to very poor reception the actual resolutions are unmonitorable. Only Aliyev's statements of "it is approved" can be heard after the voting on each resolution.

The session ends at 1740 GMT.

Aliyev Addresses Assembly

LD2009150293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1441 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 20 Sep—"I am resolutely opposed to the revival of the USSR and the CPSU and shall adhere to this position until the end of my life," Geydar Aliyev declared today when addressing a session of the republic's National Assembly. During discussion of Azerbaijan's entry into the CIS, he stressed that he would make every effort to maintain the republic's independence.

These declarations came after several deputies had expressed fears that the CIS could turn into a new form of "Soviet empire."

Assembly Votes To Join CIS

LD2009195193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Azerbaijan's Milli Mejlis (parliament) tonight voted in favor of joining the CIS. The voting was 31 for and 13 against with 1 abstention. A total of 45 of parliament's 51 deputies attended the session.

The relevant documents on CIS membership are expected to be signed by the republic's leader Geydar Aliyev at the next CIS summit in Moscow on September 24.

Aliyev: Vote 'Dictated by Present Reality'

LD2009201693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1940 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku September 20 TASS—Azerbaijan will join the Commonwealth of Independent States. This decision was adopted by the National Assembly (parliament) of the republic on Monday after more than six-hour debates by the majority of votes (31 against 13).

As it is written in the parliament's resolution, accepting the goals and principles of the commonwealth, Azerbaijan is also taking upon itself all obligations laid down in the commonwealth charter. Decisions have been made that the republic becomes a party to the treaty on collective security, and the National Assembly joins the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is also envisaged that at the forthcoming September commonwealth summit meeting Azerbaijan will sign a treaty on an economic union.

Commenting on these decisions, Geydar Aliyev, acting president of Azerbaijan, said they are not a "fruit of his own policy, but the necessity dictated by the present reality."

From September 22, the parliament lifted a state of emergency which was imposed in the republic in April this year.

The National Assembly also established a State Committee for International Relations headed by Vice-Premier of the Republic Abbas Abbasov.

Assembly Ends State of Emergency, Dismisses Minister

NC2109070293 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0640 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 21.09.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Parliament of Azerbaijan decided to enter the C.I.S during the voting of this question the opinions of deputies divided into the following way, 31 person voted for, against -13, abstained -1. Azeri Acting President and Speaker of Parliament Geydar Aliyev addressing to the deputies told that he is against restoration of U.S.S.R and Communist Party, but the necessity to join the Commonwealth is based on economy.

Milli Mejlis, yesterday, postponed state of emergency, which was applied from April 3 of this year, decided to enter the Interparliamentary Assembly of C.I.S, set up state committee on international relations, which was headed by Vice-Premier Abbas Abbasov. Parliament ratified the release of Minister of Health Board Rakhim Guseynov of his post.

Aliyev Calls On UN, CSCE To Help Karabakh Conflict

LD2009173893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Addressing a news conference called in connection with the visit of Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin to Azerbaijan, [acting President] Aliyev appealed to neighboring countries—Russia, Turkey, and Iran—to make more active efforts to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He said international organizations, such as the United Nations Security Council and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, ought to abandon statements and passing resolutions for practical steps.

The Azerbaijani leader denied that there was any connection between the possibility of his country joining the Commonwealth of Independent States and the future of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, although he said Azerbaijan's membership in the CIS would help it solve many of its problems, including the Nagorno-Karabakh one. But Azerbaijan will keep its own currency, the manat, even if it does join the Commonwealth, he said.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan was ready to sign a security treaty with Turkey.

The session at which parliament was to decide whether or not the country should join the CIS was scheduled for last Saturday but was put off. According to the parliamentary press center, the reason for the postponement was the need to give the population more time to familiarize itself with the Commonwealth Charter, published in the Azerbaijani press on September 16.

Karabakh Leaders Favor Peaceful Settlement*LD2009231993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 20 Sep 93**[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]*

[Text] Stepanakert, 20 Sep—Today, Karen Baburyan, the acting chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet, assured members of the delegation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries that "Karabakh was and still remains an advocate of a peaceful settlement" to this territory's problem.

Today the Interparliamentary Assembly delegation arrived in Stepanakert where it had meetings with Karen Baburyan and members of the Karabakh parliament. CIS parliamentarians, who are on a goodwill mission in the Karabakh crisis, have already visited Yerevan and Baku.

"If we sit down at the negotiation table with the Azerbaijani side," the Karabakh leader said, "then we hope that the situation will change for the better." According to him, it is necessary to determine the bounds of possible concessions of the warring sides and the system of priorities for each of the sides. The Karabakh leader thanked the CIS parliamentarians for the support and attention to the future of Nagorno-Karabakh.

After the meeting in Stepanakert, parliamentarians will go back to Baku, and from there they will go to Moscow. They propose to discuss the results of the trip at the council of the Interparliamentary Assembly in Saint Petersburg on 25 September.

Karabakh Official on Withdrawal From Border Areas*LD2109111193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1026 GMT 21 Sep 93**[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]*

[Text] Stepanakert September 21 TASS— "The Armed Forces of Nagorno-Karabakh will not hold territories bordering on it for a long time. We advanced across our borders just far enough to prevent artillery shelling of our territory," Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh State Defence Committee Robert Kacharyan said today.

Kacharyan indicated that Karabakh made its goodwill clear by withdrawing its Armed Forces seven-to-twelve kilometers from the areas it is now controlling along the entire border line.

This goodwill gesture must not remain unilateral, said Kacharyan. Azerbaijan's leadership must make certain concessions, he said.

"We are proceeding from the assumption that armed conflicts must be settled by political means," Kacharyan stressed.

He praised the accord on ceasefire until October 5 reached between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh and said another meeting with the Azeri leaders was planned to unblock Nagorno-Karabakh and handle the refugee problem.

CIS Assembly Delegation Returns From Yerevan*NC2009135493 Baku TURAN in English 1250 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] Baku, September 20 (TURAN)—The delegation of Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS came back from Yerevan to Baku tonight.

Chairman of Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev has received the delegation right after its arrival in Azerbaijan.

The goal of the visit of Interparliamentary Assembly in the region is to find the ways of peaceful settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict.

The head of the delegation Chairman of Supreme Soviet of Kyrgyzstan Mededkan Shirimkulov after his arrival in Baku told that talks in Yerevan have passed on constructive level.

On Saturday the delegation visited Baku and then Yerevan. Today it will make tour on the route Baku-Agdam-Khankendi [Stepanakert]-Baku.

[In a related report, Baku ASSA-IRADA in English at 0926 GMT on 20 September adds the following: "The next stop of the parliamentarians will be the captured by Armenians Azeri towns—Agdam and Khankendi. The meetings with Armenian side in these towns were appointed by the Deputy Chairman of Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Mr. Afiaddin Dzhalilov. Besides that they will meet with Azerbaijani refugees from the captured provinces of Azerbaijan."]

Baku Praises Cetin's Visit, Turkish, Iranian Aid*NC2009151693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 19 Sep 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin's latest visit to Baku indicates a new era in the relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey. Their multisided bilateral relations will further improve. Turkey has reconfirmed that it supports Azerbaijan's just cause and calls for the withdrawal of Armenian military units from Azerbaijan's occupied territories. Armenia's aggression and issues relating to the aid to refugees were discussed in detail during Cetin's visit.

Everyone knows Turkey has extended \$250 million to Azerbaijan as a long-term credit. Turkey promised to provide significant aid to our refugees. Turkish Red Crescent officials have confirmed Turkey's decision to send aid to the refugees. Talks were held on Turkey sending tents and other needed materials.

Winter is approaching. Iran has also done much to help our refugees. You all know that.

Two camps for 12,000 refugees will be established with Turkey's help.

Aliyev Registers as Presidential Candidate*LD2009194593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by correspondents Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Parliament Chairman Geydar Aliyev will definitely run for the presidency in the elections scheduled for October 3. He has been registered as a candidate. According to the Central Elections Commission, he has collected over 500,000 signatures to support his candidacy.

Aliyev will apparently have two rivals in the struggle for the presidency: Zakhir Tagiyev, a 46-year old businessman and first deputy chairman of the Gommot Party; and Kyarar Abilov, a 63-year-old lecturer from the Baku Polytechnic Institute and leader of the Independent Azerbaijan Party. Candidates' registration ends on Monday.

Georgia

Clinton Affirms Support for Shevardnadze

LD2009180393 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION
AGENCY in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton sent an official letter to the head of state of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze. U.S. support for the head of state's resolute efforts to create solid and fair peace in Georgia is expressed in the letter.

The letter also says that the U.S. President has sent a letter to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin asking him to use his influence to stop attacks in Abkhazia, to restore the cease-fire for a long period of time, and to resume the peacekeeping process approved by the United Nations.

Shevardnadze Reportedly To Stay in Sukhumi

LD2009205393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in
Russian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Fighting continues in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. Roman Babayan reports:

[Babayan] Eduard Shevardnadze, the leader of the Georgian state, is still in the capital of Abkhazia. On Monday [20 September] he stated that he would not leave Sukhumi because his presence allays panic among the population. [passage omitted]

According to Abkhaz sources, fighting is taking place in the streets of Sukhumi. The port arrival and departure building and the railway station as well as Sukhumi airport are under siege.

Vladislav Ardzinba, the chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, has agreed to open up a corridor through which the Georgian groupings blocked in the center of Sukhumi could leave the town. [passage omitted]

Says Surrender 'Out of the Question'

LD2109112693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039
GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has declared that "the surrender of Sukhumi is out of the question." In an interview for local television he stressed that "the loss of Sukhumi would mean the collapse of the state, therefore everything is being done to save the city."

More Details on Abkhaz Withdrawal Agreement

LD1909195893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 1803 GMT 19 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Talks have been held at a government guest house in Kobuleti between representatives of the Georgian official authorities and political and military leaders supporting the former president [Gamsakhurdia]. The talks were sponsored by Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ajaria.

The talks began last night in Anaklia. Today new negotiators joined the talks. An agreement was reached. The signatories are General Paata Datuashvili [government]; Colonel Vakhtang Kobalia [Zviadist]; Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria; [Georgian] Prime Minister Otar Patatsia; Taniel Gelantia [Zviadist]; [Georgian deputy premier] Avtandil Margiani; Vakhtang Gvaramia; [Deputy Interior Minister] Igor Giorgadze; Jumber Chumburidze; Tamaz Rukhadze.

The agreement makes the following provisions:

Under Article 1 of the agreement, all armed units and equipment are to begin immediately withdrawing from the conflict zone. The withdrawal of armed forces and military equipment is to be finished within 24 hours.

Under Article 2, the two sides pledge to lift the blockade and guarantee the unrestricted rail and road passage of goods of any nature, and are responsible for their safety.

Under Article 3, the two sides take personal responsibility for guaranteeing the unrestricted passage of all kinds of military equipment and their spare parts, in accordance with the agreed timetable and passage routes.

Article 4 sets up a joint commission representing both sides which will monitor the implementation of the agreement. The commission will include Nodar Diasamidze, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ajaria; Georgian Parliament Member Badri Nakashidze; and Taniel Gelantia [Zviadist]. The commission also includes two military experts from each side.

The agreement takes effect from the time of its signing at 1800 today. [passage omitted]

Military units are now being withdrawn and transferred to Abkhazia. Under a preliminary agreement these military units will have a single military commander. Defense Minister Gia Karkarashvili. Loti Kobalia will be a member of military headquarters.

Rail and road arteries near Poti and Dapnari have already been reopened.

A group of Georgian MPs attended the talks.

This information was provided by Giorgi Targamadze from Ajar television.

Tripartite Group Resumes Work on Solving Conflict*LD2009201993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] On 20 September, a session of the joint tripartite commission on resolving the Abkhaz conflict resumed in Sochi.

From the Georgian side the following persons participated: Aleksandr Kavsadze, personal envoy to the Georgian head of state and chairman of the committee for human rights and interethnic relations; Ramaz Sichinava, first deputy of the Abkhaz cabinet of ministers; and Londir Tsaava, chief adviser to the Georgian head of state.

On 19 September, the sides decided they would prepare suggestions on how to normalize the situation in the conflict zone and submit them for discussion.

They then discussed the suggestions, which included issues of the cease-fire, withdrawal of manpower and military equipment from the combat zone, use of Russian Army battalions as peacekeeping forces, restoration of the authority bodies present before the conflict in Sukhumi, and return and safeguarding of refugees.

They discussed the suggestions in a tense atmosphere. Mr. Aleksandr Kavsadze issued a statement saying the Abkhaz combatants had shot civilians in the village of Kachabara. In addition, the statement said 500 Georgian women and children were driven into the stadium of the village of Akhaldaba in order to use them as a cover during the separatists' attack on Georgian positions.

The statement also said that rockets had been launched at the plane flying from Sukhumi to Sochi carrying members of the Georgian delegation.

Abkhaz Peace Talks in Sochi End in 'Impasse'*LD2109113093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 21 Sep 93*

[Text] The meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) on peace in Abkhazia, held in Sochi on September 20, ended in an impasse, as did the meeting held the day before.

The Abkhazian JC co-chairman Nodar Khashba told INTERFAX that Abkhazians had suggested that Georgian forces leave Sukhumi within 24 hours and withdraw their troop from Abkhazia within five subsequent days. The Abkhazian authorities guaranteed security during the withdrawal.

The return of the legal authorities to the Abkhazian capital, he said, proved to be the most difficult issue in the talks.

According to the press center of the Georgian troops stationed in Abkhazia, the Georgian authorities, for their part, demanded that all armed forces return to the positions they had held before the resumption of hostilities on September 16 and that the peace plan which was signed in Sochi on June 27 be implemented.

The Joint Commission is scheduled to meet again in Sochi Thursday.

Media Warned Not To Publish Military Information*LD2009153193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1430 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Sep—The IBERIA news agency has received a statement from the press service of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Georgia, which says:

"In view of the most serious conditions in the country, the press service of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Georgia calls on the mass media to exercise a maximum degree of caution in treating information of a military nature.

"Make no mention in your reports of numbers of personnel in military units, quantities and sorts of equipment, times and routes of troop movement, planned military operations and other sensitive data.

"Take into account that information of this nature is received not only by the citizens of the state, but also by enemies. When a report says that 500 fighters have left for the frontline, it will necessarily be followed by operational measures taken by the opposite side.

"In order to avoid spreading dubious reports and causing panic among the population, we insist that all military information, especially that dealing with combat activities, be checked with the appropriate services prior to its release."

Deputy Details Enforced State of Emergency*LD2009135993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[Text] A state of emergency was introduced in Georgia from midnight of September 19. The republic's parliament ruled on September 14 that this status will be in place for two months during which time its activities will be suspended.

First Deputy Interior Minister Avtandil Ioseliani said on Georgian television that even though numerous personnel of his ministry were sent to Abkhazia, "the state of emergency comes into force." Law and order will be maintained, he said, with the help of the country's population who set up special units. Headquarters in Tbilisi will supervise the maintenance of the state of emergency; a plan of action has been worked out. "The state of emergency will probably be extended to the parts of western Georgia which are not under government control," Ioseliani said.

The emergency regulations provide for seizing weapons from the population and illegal militias, bringing criminal charges against those who resist this, ban on rallies, marches, and strikes, and censorship of the mass media. New entry and departure rules in towns and cities are imposed. The police are empowered to raid places where large masses of people gather and to inspect personal belongings and cars.

Russian Intelligence Officers Taken Hostage in Tbilisi

LD2109100093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 21 Sep— Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Rogal and Major Oleg Beskaravaynyy of the border troops of the Russian security ministry, who are serving at the headquarters of the Transcaucasus border district in Tbilisi, were captured by an armed group in the center of the Georgian capital this morning. It is thought that the action was carried out by one of the special services of the republic.

The point is that four workers of the Georgian Information intelligence service (KGB) are being kept at a remand center in Krasnodar. They were detained by their Russian colleagues while on a specific intelligence mission. If this version is right, the Georgian side has to "make up" the numbers of captured Russian intelligence agents to be able to ensure the release of their people.

Speaker Gogvadze Wants Georgia To Join CIS

LD2009140893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gavritishviliy and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 20 TASS—Georgian parliament Speaker Vakhtang Gogvadze has informed the deputies of the need for Georgia to join the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He cited the tremendously difficult economic and social situation in the country as an argument for his appeal.

"We are going along the road of independent self-destruction, not independent development," he emphasized.

In his opinion, for some time past, Georgia is engaged in unpromising West-oriented policies, because "all economic and financial support on the part of the Western countries is based solely on the authority of Eduard Shevardnadze."

Shevardnadze, who is at present in Sukhumi, does not know about this appeal; if he knew, he should have declared against it, because he repeatedly opposed this idea, Gogvadze said.

MP's React to Gogvadze's Statement

LD2109103693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Tbilisi September 21 TASS—The statement by Georgian parliament speaker Vakhtang Gogvadze that Georgia could save itself only by joining the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has immediately triggered contradictory reactions among influential Georgian politicians.

Georgian vice-premier and leader of the National-Democratic Faction in the Georgian parliament Irina Sarishvili spoke on Georgian television on September 21. She said that accession to the CIS would not save Georgia, referring to the example of several former union republics which, though being members of the CIS, were unable to surmount various critical situations. She disapproved of the speaker's statement, stressing, on the other hand, that there was nothing awful in the idea to join the Commonwealth and that anybody had the right to express his personal opinion.

Parliament member Mikhail Naneishvili was more outspoken. "The parliament speaker is apparently unaware of his powers," he said. "Gogvadze's statement has caused moral and political damage. It has discredited the Georgian parliament and the Georgian people in the eyes of world public opinion. He should have resigned before making such a statement. Then he would have been free to express his personal opinion". Naneishvili believes that it is still not late for the speaker to hand in his resignation. "If he fails to do it, the MPs will definitely include this question in the parliament's agenda," he added.

Shortly before these statements by the two parliament members, Georgian TV viewers were addressed by Vakhtang Gogvadze himself, who explained his stand on the matter. His view is shared by some MPs and public leaders, as well as by many rank-and-file Georgians, who have lately voiced the view that Georgia should join the CIS.

It is worth recalling that the Council of War and Labour Veterans of Sukhumi addressed a message to the Georgian parliament this summer, moving to discuss the question of Georgia's accession to the CIS. However, some people believe that only a nation-wide referendum could decide the question of whether Georgia should become a member of the CIS or not.

Chokhatauri, Samtredia Officials Interviewed

LD2009141293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] We have spoken by telephone to Irakli Kuchava, the deputy administrator of Chokhatauri, and Taniel Alpaidze, the deputy administrator of Samtredia. We also spoke to one of the deputies of Loti Kobalia, but we failed to speak to Mr. Kobalia himself. The line broke and we had no time to get in touch with them again. I will tell you what I was told.

The headquarters of Loti Kobalia's units reported that railway and highway routes leading to Abkhazia are open. A 500-man group had left Senaki and arrived in the Ochamchire area. We are sorry to report that today's clash with the opposition forces resulted in rather heavy casualties to their unit. As for Loti Kobalia, he intends leaving for Abkhazia in a few hours.

We now have a recording of a conversation with Irakli Kuchava in Chokhatauri and Taniel Alpaidze in Samtredia so as to give you an update on the situation there:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] What is the situation in Chokhatauri?

[Kuchava] The situation is still tense in Chokhatauri. Although our positions have strengthened considerably compared with what we had in previous days, the tension remains. One round of talks was held yesterday. Talks will continue today. The desire is to avoid bloodshed and to have both sides, at the moment opposing each other, fight side-by-side where the country needs. I think certain results will be reached at the talks.

[Correspondent] Several items of the agreement were signed yesterday. Are they not implemented?

[Kuchava] I guess you mean the Kobuleti agreement. During our talks in Chokhatauri we have to use concrete results of the Kobuleti agreement. We will know an outcome late in the afternoon.

[Correspondent] Have the opposite side withdrawn its units?

[Kuchava] No. They have not. One group, which was moved from the center of the town to a spot about two km away, is still there. Negotiators have been sent to them. They will probably withdraw the group. At any rate, the Kobuleti agreement should be implemented today, if they really want to comply with it.

[Correspondent] One more question: Is the railroad open?

[Kuchava] What railroad?

[Correspondent] The railroad.

[Kuchava] There is no railroad here.

[Correspondent] Have you any information about a railroad?

[Kuchava] I am not sure. My information apparently will not be precise.

[Correspondent] What is the situation near Japana?

[Kuchava] We received information from Lanchkhuti saying that the withdrawal had started. But you cannot rely on my information.

[Correspondent] All right. Thank you very much, Batono Irakli. 99end recording]

Now a recording of a telephone report from Samtredia:

[Begin recording] [Tariel Alpaidze] Loti Kobalia's forces have withdrawn units stationed along the Tskhenistskali River from the Abasha side and moved them toward Senaki. They will be deployed to Sukhumi from there. As for units stationed in the villages of Dapnari and Japana, they are still there. A similar situation is seen near Vani, where about 150 men with their equipment are still deployed, as they are near Chokhatauri. Troops have been removed only from the line between Samtredia and Abasha.

[Correspondent] We have been told that the railroad is now open.

[Alpaidze] The railroad is open.

[Correspondent] Yesterday's agreement stipulated that they had to withdraw units from Chokhatauri, did it not?

[Alpaidze] They will. There is an agreement on that. This morning they had to begin removing troops. I have a report saying that they have not yet been removed, but there are provisions that they will be withdrawn.

[Correspondent] What is the situation in Samtredia?

[Alpaidze] People have calmed down in Samtredia. They were excited, of course, but now everything is all right.

Abkhazia's Russian Community Protests Sanctions

LD2009131893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the moment, Georgian forces are blockaded in central Sukhumi. The Abkhaz command, seeking to avoid mass bloodshed, is giving the Georgian leadership the time and the opportunity to completely withdraw Georgian Army units from the territory of Abkhazia as quickly as possible.

At the same time, Abkhazia is now in its third day without electricity. Over 40,000 refugees, including 18,000 children, currently living in Pitsunda and Gagra, have today been left without bread. Rallies are now going on in districts of Abkhazia with the following slogans: The Russian Government is on the side of the aggressor and freedom is more precious than bread.

The Russian community in Abkhazia has issued an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet, demanding the lifting of the economic blockade.

Foreign Ministry Urges Russia To Halt Fighting

LD2009183393 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Georgian Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry on stopping aggressive action of the Abkhaz separatists, who breached the 27 July agreement. The Russian Federation, which acted as a mediator and a guarantor of the implementation by the sides, is also responsible for the resumption and further escalation of the combat activities in the conflict zone, says the note.

Seeks Russian Action on Abkhazia

LD2009211693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Georgian Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry. It says:

At 0500 hours on 16 September 1993, Abkhaz separatists carried out offensive actions on the Ochamchira Rayon and the Gumista river region using armored vehicles and heavy equipment, which were to be withdrawn from the conflict zone as envisaged by the 27 July agreement. It is especially exasperating that the mass attack on Sukhumi

and other populated areas is being carried out after thousands of refugees, who had trusted in the conflict's peaceful settlement, returned to their homes.

Combat actions are claiming civilian lives. There are casualties among the servicemen of the Russian military unit stationed in Sukhumi.

The Gudauta side is preventing the UN and the CSCE members from carrying out their functions [passage indistinct].

Russia, which assumed the role of guarantor and mediator in fulfillment of the Sochi agreement by the two sides, is also responsible for the resumption of combat action in the conflict zone and its further escalation.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry is calling on Russia to eradicate the aggressive actions by the Abkhaz separatists, which caused the breach of the 27 July agreement.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry is taking this opportunity to prove its respect for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Shevardnadze Calls Russian Stand 'Treacherous'

LD2009202593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] News agencies report that Sukhumi is now encircled by Abkhaz detachments. Fighting in the city's outskirts and artillery shelling of Sukhumi continues. Eduard Shevardnadze is still in Sukhumi. He has admitted that evacuation of civilian population has now become impossible. The Georgian leader has described Russia's stance on the conflict as treacherous. In his words, all the documents previously signed have remained mere scraps of paper. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Comments on Fighting in West

NC2009142893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0936 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, September 20 (SNARK)—The first armed troops detachments of Loti Kobalia (the ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporter) came from the western Georgia to the Ochamchira region, where they together with the National Army, loyal to Eduard Shevardnadze, guarded the Georgian inviolability. SNARK was informed about the fact in the Republican Defence Ministry's Press-Center.

The center of military actions again came from Megrelia to Abkhazia. According to the same source of information, in the night of September 20 and in the new day's morning fightings were continued on the all Abkhazian-Georgian front border. The military actions in the directions of the villages Shroma-Tavisupleba, Ahaldaba and at the borders of the Kodory and Gumista rivers were of especially hard character.

In the Ochamchira region a range of settlements are occupied by Abkhazians.

Situation in West Improves

LD2009201493 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The situation in west Georgia has improved considerably. Railway and highway traffic have been practically restored. Supporters of the former president have freed hostages in the Chokhatauri Rayon, and one of the supporters' units led by Loti Kobalia has arrived in the Ochamchira Rayon.

Battles Reported on Approaches to Sukhumi

LD2009184493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY was told from the press center of the Sukhumi military headquarters this evening that battles are under way at the approaches to Sukhumi.

Abkhaz separatists are attacking the town using great force. The soldiers of the Georgian armed forces are taking relevant measures.

There are casualties on both sides.

Report on Fighting, Atrocities

LD2009203293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By correspondent N.Kandiashvili from Georgia; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The situation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone has been becoming increasingly aggravated with every hour today. The Gudauta separatists' offensive toward Sukhumi and Ochamchira is becoming more and more persistent. Until this evening, Ardzinba's troops were using tanks, howitzers, grenade launchers, and Grad jet launchers. Just now we have learned from unconfirmed reports that Abkhazians used chemical weapons, banned throughout the world, against the Georgian units and about 100 civilians near the village of Achadara. Despite this, they have failed to seize the village.

As a result of fierce fighting, according to reports by the republican health ministry, 24 people were killed with atrocious cruelty and 113 were wounded today. By the evening, the Georgian troops managed to free the village of Adzhiba from the separatists. This is what used to be the homes of the peaceful population. This is how the bodies of some hundred people look now. [Video shows fighting, houses burning, people running; a corpse being uncovered.]

Those are the people at whom the Russians remaining in Sukhumi level their accusations. [passage omitted]

As for today's statement by Vakhtang Gogvadze, speaker of the Georgian parliament, on the need for Georgia to join the CIS, I shall have to disappoint sensation-hunters: This statement expresses only Gogvadze's own opinion and not that of the entire parliament or the entire Georgia. [passage omitted]

Army Fends Off Attacks on Sukhumi

LD2009222393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By correspondent Aleksandr Ukhov from Georgia; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Georgian Army succeeded in holding back many attacks by Abkhaz groupings today. The fighting is taking place on the outskirts of Sukhumi. In the village of Achadara, north of the city, houses belonging to Georgians have been burned. The number of casualties is not known. Attempts to land paratroopers from eight aircraft were foiled. More than 3,000 people are packed in the airport [words indistinct] evacuation from the city, where there is no electricity and not enough medicine or even bread.

As before, the city is being fired on from Grad installations and heavy artillery. Eduard Shevardnadze has categorically refused to leave Sukhumi.

'Fierce Fighting' Continues

LD2109024693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0115 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By GIA correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 21 Sep—At 0130 today the Georgian military press center in Sukhumi reported to the GIA correspondent that on Monday evening and early Tuesday morning fierce fighting was continuing along all sections of the front in the environs of Sukhumi—on the Gumista River, at the villages of Shroma and Tavisupleba in Sukhumskiy Rayon between the confronting sides who retain their former positions.

The Abkhaz formations have not managed to enter the town. The Georgian fighters, the local people's militia, and the residents of Sukhumi are defending their native town selflessly. According to information from the press center, the Abkhaz side is suffering great losses in manpower and equipment in the battles for Sukhumi. In the last four days alone since the attack on Sukhumi was renewed the Gudauta formations and the forces supporting them have lost approximately 200 fighters, and 80 have perished on the Georgian side, according to preliminary data.

In an interview on Monday evening with western television correspondents who had arrived here, the head of the Georgian state, Eduard Shevardnadze, who is in Sukhumi, announced that the Georgian leadership, the fighters, and the population of Sukhumi are not preparing to leave the town and will defend it to the last drop of blood.

Russian Helicopter Fired On in Abkhazia

LD2109025493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0127 GMT 21 Sep 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 21 Sep—A Russian helicopter which was carrying Russian refugees from Abkhazia to Sochi on Monday was fired upon by four ships of the Gudauta grouping which suddenly appeared in the waters of Sukhumi Bay. The helicopter avoided disaster thanks to the skill of the pilots. A ship of the Georgian Armed Forces

forced the enemy to leave the waters. The helicopter continued the flight to Sochi.

Georgian First Deputy Defense Minister Avtandil Tskitishvili, head of the Armed Forces General Staff, has received military attaches of the diplomatic representations of the United States, Russia, Turkey, and other countries who are in the republic. They were told about the drastically deteriorating situation in Abkhazia which is called forth by the violation of the Sochi agreement of 27 July.

Sukhumi Press Center Reports on Overnight Fighting

LD2109083993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Armed Forces in Sukhumi reports that fighting continued all night on the approaches to Sukhumi. The city was bombed several times.

The separatists are stopping at nothing to capture Sukhumi and do not spare either their manpower or their equipment. Fortunately, however, their plans will never materialize. The Georgian Armed Forces are defending and will defend to the end the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Fighting is still going on the approaches to Sukhumi, near Shroma, Tavisupleba, and the Kodori bridge.

It is relatively calm in Ochamchira. In Ochamchirskiy rayon, fighting continued during the night near Tamysh and Kindghi. Several sections of the road between Sukhumi and Ochamchira are controlled by the Abkhaz separatists. As you know, yesterday the enemy captured the villages of Akhaldaba and Achadara.

The Sukhumi airport is under the control of the government forces. The airport was bombed several times, but air traffic did not stop.

We received this information at 1020.

Fighting Under Way in Center of Sukhumi

LD2109085993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Report by Yuriy Sizov, editor in chief of ITAR-TASS, live from TASS newsroom; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received this urgent report from Irina Shchegoleva in Sochi. Abkhaz armed formations have once again launched an attack on the town of Sukhumi from all directions. Fighting continues in the approaches to the town.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told at the press center of the Georgian troops deployed in Abkhazia that local combats are already under way in the center of the town.

The press service of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet in Gudauta has also reported that Georgian aviation launched a strike against Abkhaz positions along the

Gumista river last night. It also reported that the command of the armed forces of the Republic of Abkhazia has appealed to Abkhaz fighters to treat humanely those Georgian soldiers who lay down their arms and do not use violence against civilians.

Tbilisi Denies Abkhaz Seizure of Sukhumi

LD2109104893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040
GMT 21 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 21—Official sources here on Tuesday denied reports about an alleged seizure of Sukhumi by Abkhazian forces.

By one p.m. fierce fighting was in progress on the outskirts of Sukhumi, where city defenders repulsing all enemy attempts to break through the defences. No substantial positional changes came about, a spokesman at the intelligence information service of Georgia told ITAR-TASS.

A similar information was conveyed to journalists by Zhiuli Shartava, chairman of the Defence Council of Abkhazia (as part of Georgia) and premier of the autonomous republic.

The city is being subjected to intensive attacks by Abkhazian forces. But the Georgian Army foiled all enemy attempts to burst into Sukhumi, Shartava told journalists by telephone.

Abkhaz Forces Near Cabinet Building

LD2109111993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039
GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Abkhazian forces have overtaken the TV tower and a hill within 700 meters from the Abkhazian Council of Minister's building in Sukhumi, an Abkhazian Defense Ministry spokesman in Gudauta told INTERFAX.

Elsewhere in the city they are reported to be within 300 meters from the building.

In his interview with INTERFAX, Abkhazian Defense Minister Soltan Sosnaliyev said that the Abkhazian troops held the initiative in the Sukhumi fighting. "We are in the city," He emphasized.

At the moment, INTERFAX does not know the whereabouts of the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze who arrived in Sukhumi at the start of the Abkhazian offensive and said he would stay there "to the end."

Meanwhile, according to the press center of the Georgian troops in Abkhazia, the heavy fighting that had been going on throughout yesterday brought about no positional changes.

Sukhumi was shelled twice during the night. There were new casualties among the civilian population. By unconfirmed reports, over 70 civilians were killed and over 600 injured in Sukhumi alone since September 16.

In the Ochamchira District, the press center reports, fighting continued yesterday in some parts of the Sukhumi-Ochamchira highway that the Abkhazian forces had cut off.

The press center says that according to Georgian intelligence the Abkhazian forces, 70 percent of whose personnel are mercenaries from Russia, are receiving tremendous amounts of up-to-date military hardware and munition from Russia. "The amount of hardware around Sukhumi is more than what Georgia and Azerbaijan own together," a press center official said.

Also according to Georgian intelligence reports, Abkhazians burned down the village of Achadara near Sukhumi and forced all inhabitants of the village of Akhaldaba into a stadium.

Estonia

Foreign Minister on Russian Troops, Border

LD2009191293 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 0900 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste by Antti Halinen; place and date not given]

[Text] [begin recording] [Halinen] The last soldiers of the former Soviet Army left Poland at the weekend, three and a half months early. The last troops departed from Lithuania three weeks ago. In talks between Estonia and Russia in the last few weeks, agreement was still not reached on the final date for the departure of the Russian troops. The matter is causing friction in relations between the countries. Can they be normal at all before the troops have been withdrawn, Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste?

[Velliste] It is quite clear that they cannot, but on the other hand Estonia does not want to do anything that would make relations worse.

[Halinen] Estonia seems to pin at least some hope on the U.S. demand that the Russian troops must have departed by 6 October, otherwise Russia will not receive financial aid.

[Velliste] It goes without saying that the Russian Government must take this date of 6 October into consideration, because quite substantial financial aid hangs on this. But as we saw in the case of Lithuania, for instance, decisions can be made very quickly and the troops too can leave quite quickly when there is political will, so there are still a few days left. [end recording]

[Halinen] Velliste thinks that the announcement by Russia that a shortage of housing is preventing the rapid withdrawal of the troops is a lack of political will, an excuse. The 5,000 soldiers would easily fit into Russia's wide realm if there really is a will to station them there right away, says Foreign Minister Velliste.

One of the bottlenecks in the talks between Estonia and Russia is the issue of the right of already retired or retiring officers to remain in Estonia. According to Velliste, there has been some progress in the matter. For Estonia, however, the matter is a question of principle.

[Begin recording] [Velliste] Estonia cannot consent to the troops of an occupying power removing their uniforms and declaring themselves to be pensioners.

[Halinen] Estonian law permits the government to make exceptions, take humanitarian reasons into account, for instance if old or sick people are involved.

[Velliste] We cannot agree that officers of the Russian Army would automatically become pensioners in Russia [as heard]. That would, in fact, amount to acceptance of the occupation.

[Halinen] There is also another important question of principle in the negotiations with Russia, the question of Estonia's border.

[Velliste] The border of the Tartu peace [treaty] is a question of principle for Estonia because the border must not be moved unilaterally. Russia, or its predecessor the Soviet Union, has operated in this way. There is no treaty on moving the border and for that reason Estonia is always observing the border in the Tartu peace. [end recording]

Gasoline Prices To Rise; Further Increases Demanded

LD2009123893 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Estonian prices department has agreed to a price increase for A-76 gasoline sold by Estonian Fuel. A liter now costs 3.35 kroons instead of the previous 3.10 kroons.

Toomas Saks, Estonian Fuel's director general, told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that this increase is insufficient, however, because Russian fuel prices are even higher. The state-owned fuel company imports A-76 grade gasoline only from Russia. Estonian Fuel has requested that the government free fuel prices from state control altogether. Estonian Fuel has long since stopped controlling the Estonian market and the state's rigid pricing policy is said to be driving the company into a difficult situation compared with its competitors.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Pakistan

LD2109101793 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Estonia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan established diplomatic relations yesterday. This was reported to ETA by the Foreign Ministry's press service. An agreement was signed by Ambassadors Margus Laidre and (Saktam Khan) at the Estonian Embassy in Stockholm. A joint communique was also signed which among other things says that the Republic of Estonia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan wish to further friendship between citizens of both countries and encourage mutual understanding. The two countries will be exchanging nonresident ambassadors.

Lithuania

Moves To Solve Defense Service Conflict Continue

LD2009143193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The government continues looking for further moves to resolve the Voluntary National Defense Service conflict peacefully.

Egidijus Bickauskas, leader of the group working to resolve the conflict, which was set up by a presidential decree, told the ELTA correspondent that the situation in Lithuania is normal and stable. We continue to make efforts in order that the conflict is settled peacefully without the interference of force," he stressed.

Egidijus Bickauskas indicated that the group is working actively but there is a difference of opinion on how the situation should be neutralized. However, he did not wish to make all this public.

Nation Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius says that he was absolutely right to order the volunteers—who had left their place of service and withdrawn to the forests—to lay down their arms and to return the weapons to the depositories of the Volunteer National Defense Service by noon on Monday. He labels the appeal to the president by Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the Seimas commission, Saulius Peceliunas, deputy chairman of the commission, and Ignacas Uzdavinys, member of the Lithuanian Seimas, which demands the order by the minister of national defense be revoked or that the minister resign, as a strange misunderstanding. He is convinced that the Lithuanian Seimas is an institution of legislation and control over the execution of the laws of the country. Therefore, it should want to see that the laws of the Republic of Lithuania are executed irreproachably.

Romasis Vaitiekunas told national television on Saturday that the situation in the organs of the Ministry of Interior is under control. The minister expressed the hope that the problem which had occurred as a result of the self-willed withdrawal by the volunteers would be settled peacefully.

Today, a joint sitting was held by the presidential working group and the Lithuanian Seimas commission, at which reports were made by Romasis Vaitiekunas, minister of internal affairs, and Audrius Butkevicius, minister of national defense. Also today a meeting of the presidential working group was held at 1100. Another meeting was held this afternoon. No detailed information has been received so far.

Landsbergis on Russian Role

LD2009154293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Seimas opposition, stressed at a news conference held at the Lithuanian Seimas today that the intelligence services of the big neighbor have the greatest interest in events such as the conflict with the Voluntary National Defense Service in Kaunas, as well as everything that compromises Lithuania and demonstrates the negative consequences of the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states. He did not reject the possibility that this was meant to intimidate the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party into calling for help from Moscow. The interest of foreign forces could be dangerous to Lithuania, the opposition leader said.

Assessing the efforts by the president and Seimas to resolve the conflict, Landsbergis drew attention to the fact that the volunteers' problems should have been addressed earlier; these problems have not arisen just now, he asserted. According to him there are two ways the events could develop. Formal strictness could lead the negotiations further into deadlock, whereas another way is to see if the Voluntary National Defense Service could be used in the

struggle against crime. Landsbergis did not reject the possibility that for this reason the criminal world could be interested in compromising the volunteers. There can be no talk about cutting down the size of the volunteer service or the nationality composition of the service, because this is the main force which could repulse foreign adventurers, Landsbergis pointed out. The opposition leader said that greater space for trust would be created if all the political forces were to seek a common national policy through discussion and would speak out on everything.

A statement by Landsbergis was disseminated to journalists at the news conference. It reads, in part:

Foreign Affairs Minister Povilas Gylys' statement of 16 September saying that Lithuania needs some sort of special rapprochement with Russia, which should take place as soon as possible, is surprising. Confidential or secret diplomacy favored by the minister in light of the above statements, as before, do not increase the trust of the public, Landsbergis' statement reads.

He said that in the context of this statement the events in Kaunas could serve as a basis for such a rapprochement. The leader of the opposition criticized the media for very categorical evaluations of the volunteers' conflict and for labeling it either a rebellion or a mutiny. I do not think that there is an organization on the other side which could decide or speak on behalf of everyone, Landsbergis said.

Volunteers Fail To Lay Down Arms

LD2009185093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 20 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vldas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius September 20 TASS—Armed servicemen from the voluntary guarding service of the region did not obey their minister's order to "lay down arms and by 12:00 on Monday return to their former areas of permanent dislocation", and continue to stay in woods near the city of Kaunas.

At a meeting with journalists on Monday, Egidijus Bickauskas, chairman of the presidential commission investigating this incident, said that if the volunteers did not obey the minister's order to lay down arms or return to Kaunas, after 12:00 they would not be considered volunteers - members of the service, but a "group of armed people with a different legal status."

In connection with this incident, official representatives of the Lithuanian state say that everything is being done to avoid senseless bloodshed.

As became known from a well informed source close to the minister of guarding [as received] this territory of Lithuania, the "rebels" expressed their wish to meet with leader of the opposition in the Sejm [as received] Vytautas Landsbergis, who is an "honorary volunteer of the guarding service." Vytautas Landsbergis believes that special services of Russia, the former KGB, are involved in this incident with Lithuanian volunteers.